



John Hancock

Great Americans of History

JOHN HANCOCK

A CHARACTER SKETCH

BY

JOHN R. MUSICK

AUTHOR OF

"The Columbian Historical Novels," "Hawaii, Our New Possessions," etc.

WITH AN ESSAY ON THE PATRIOT BY

G. MERCER ADAM

Late Editor of "Self Culture" Magazine, Etc., Etc.

TOGETHER WITH

ANECDOTES, CHARACTERISTICS, AND CHRONOLOGY

BY

L. B. VAUGHAN AND OTHERS.

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In these modern days of iconoclasm and skepticism, many honored and beloved heroes of the past are lowered to the common level of ordinary mankind. While iconoclasm is certainly carried to an extreme, nevertheless it is productive of good, in teaching that the great men of history whom we worshiped, were after all, the common clay of ordinary mortals.

Some were great men, and some were bad men, hardly worthy a place on the page of history. This tendency of writers of recent years to disparage the founders of our government, and heroes who won the independence we enjoy, with their blood, is possibly the natural reaction of writers of the preceding age to canonize them.

While "our forefathers" were only human, and by no means demigods as some past writers would represent them, they on the other hand were not the coarse, bigoted, evil minded individuals, represented by the critic of the present.

In defence of them we are pleased to state that after a careful study and research, we conclude that most of

them were honorable gentlemen, whose society was elevating, morals good, with pleasing address, and many like Washington, would "scorn some of the acts common with politicians of the present."

The charge of bribery to obtain position in any of the legislative bodies was never laid at their door, nor were corruption funds known at that time.

A recent writer in an American magazine with little reverence for the man whose bold signature first strikes the eye in glancing over the list of signers to the Declaration of Independence, asserts that John Hancock was a smuggler, a defaulter, and a man whose "private character will not bear a too close inspection." That the writer is prejudiced is evident from his failure to give the evidence for, as well as against the accused.

John Hancock, whose chief celebrity is his signature to the Declaration of Independence, was born of respectable parents, at Quincy, Massachusetts, January 12, 1737. Perhaps less is known of him than of any Revolutionary hero, or any other person who had so much to do with the growth of liberty and independence.

His family was not only respectable but influential, and his uncle who seemed to have had much to do with his career, was at one time one of the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest man in Boston.

Hancock grew up from early boyhood accustomed to polite society. History fails to record the fact that he developed any rare genius early in youth, but was simply a respectable, good mannered lad, obedient to his superiors, and a faithful scholar in school. He early

acquired a gentility which followed him through life. He entered Harvard College at an early age, and his advancement must have been phenomenal, for he was graduated at the age of seventeen.

Hancock's subsequent connection with Harvard was such as to give rise to grave suspicions. Being treasurer of the College he was so slow in making his settlements as to afford his enemies an opportunity for censure, yet the best authority to be obtained acquits him of any blame. On this subject Burrage says:

“Quincy, in his history of Harvard University, animadverted strongly on Hancock, saying: ‘His connection with the college was troublesome and vexatious.’ As early as 1774, when they sent for the papers at Philadelphia, where Hancock had taken them for safety, seeming to fear he would lose them, the officers commenced to write and almost dictate to him about his accounts. Obtaining the documents they displaced him from his honorable office in 1777; an act which Hancock and his friends never forgave.

“Hancock frequently assured them that he had the interest of the college at heart as much as any one, and would pursue it; and the records show that he honorably fulfilled the terms of his uncle's intended bequest of Five Hundred Pounds to the library, and made liberal gifts to the same himself.

“The officers passed a vote of thanks for this lasting monument of his bounty and public affection. In 1788 he made a final settlement, but it was left to his heirs to pay over the full amount due, except the charge for

compound interest." The president of the New England Historical Society, January 1, 1896, in reference to the matter of Hancock's shortage in his accounts, says:

"Hancock had a very long controversy with the authorities at Harvard College about the funds in his hands as treasurer. His action in this matter is perfectly unaccountable. It vexed the treasurer who succeeded him, and all the committees appointed to settle with him, to the last degree, and the alumni never forgave him. The college lost nothing but rather gained by the delay, except in the matters of interest, which his executors would not pay."

The friendly reader who follows the narrative of Hancock through the troublous days of 1774 to 1777 when he was removed as treasurer of Harvard, may easily find abundant excuse for his course of action, which when we take into consideration the fact, that defalcation was never his design, ought to exonerate him from any evil intent.

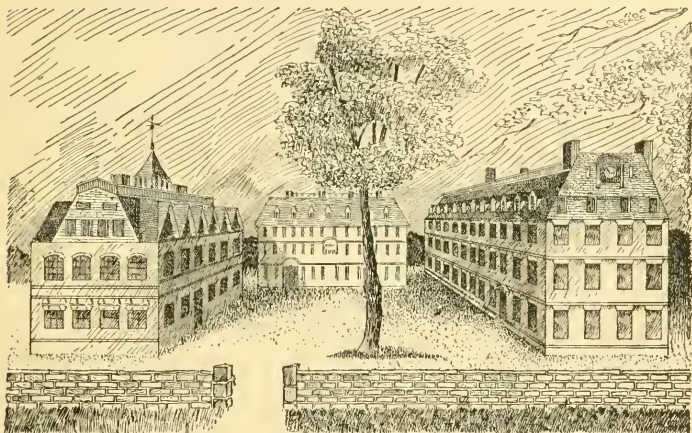
Hancock at this time had his enemies as well as friends; enemies who were ever ready to criticise that portion of his conduct which they could not understand, and this may in part account for some of the scurrilous stories derogatory to his honesty.

After graduating from Harvard College at the early age of seventeen, he was taken under the guardianship of a pious uncle, who made him a clerk in his counting room, where with his native aptitude, he soon became acquainted with the various routine of business.

Hancock was quite in contrast with his Puritanic as-

sociates, the Adamses, being more of a Cavalier than a Puritan, yet the kindest of feeling seems to have existed between them.

He seems to have been the leader of fashion—the gen-



Old Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass.

teel aristocrat of the day. Here is a description of him when a young man.

“He wore a coat of scarlet, lined with silk, and embroidered with gold, white satin embroidered waist coat, dark satin small-clothes, white silk stockings, and shoes with silver buckles.”

It seems that this attire with the “three cornered gold laced hat constituted the gentleman of the period.” His equipage, a coach and six blooded bays, were such as had never been seen in Boston, and caused many pious

old Puritans to regard him as "a too worldly man." He was exceedingly fond of music, dancing, parties, rich wines, dinners and all that sort of thing called elegant pleasures, so horrifying in the eyes of the Puritans. But his wealth and exalted position placed him above reach of criticism.

His love of society and rounds of pleasure seemed in no way to interfere with his business advancement. He neglected nothing, was attentive to the instructions of his superiors, and quick to comprehend. His uncle was so well pleased with his rapid advancement and honest habits, that in the year 1760 he entrusted him with a mission to England for the transaction of some very important business.

It was a rare opportunity for a youth of twenty-three, and young Hancock with his keen perception and close observation was just the person to improve it. On this occasion he was present at the funeral rites of King George II, and was also present at the coronation ceremonies of his successor, George III. Little did Hancock dream while witnessing those ceremonies which invested the new monarch with the insignia of royalty, that a tyrant was being installed over the colonies, who by means both bold and insidious, would attempt the abridgement of the liberties of the American people.

Least of all did the young man suspect that the king whose coronation he was witnessing, would in less than fifteen years proscribe him for upholding the standard of liberty, and place a price on his head.

At this time the feeling between the colonies and

mother country was good. The people expected much from the new king, as they do from every new ruler. The importance of the American colonies had long been appreciated by the British sovereign and ministry. English merchants found them a profitable market for the products of their looms and factories, and an important visitor from them, such as the representative of a great mercantile establishment was warmly welcomed.

Having been reared in the best society and a graduate of an institution, which even at that time was recognized as possessing superior advantages, as well as the representative of a wealthy house, Hancock gained admission to the best society.

It is to his credit that all the flattery and petting to which he was subjected, did not turn his head and make an out and out Tory of him. Perhaps few young men of the present day could have resisted the snares set for Hancock. But the liberty tree was too firmly grown in his heart for flattery or cajolery to supplant it.



Liberty Tree, Boston Common.

His stay in England won for him many warm friends both in a social and business way. Stern business necessities forced him to make his visit much shorter than he wished, and it was with great regret than he left England for Boston.

Soon after his return home his uncle died, leaving him the sole possessor of his princely fortune—the largest perhaps in the province of Massachusetts.

Possessed of an extraordinary mind, and deeply conversant with political science, he soon after entering into possession of his fortune, began to devote himself to the politics of the day. In principle he was devotedly democratic, though liberal in his views. His espousing the cause of the people against the king was no doubt a surprise to some of the nobility who had safely counted on him falling into the Tory ranks.

Hancock with his wealth, influence, business ability, statesmanship and sagacity, proved a valuable acquisition to the Whig cause. Efforts were made by the royalists early in the struggle to secure him, but without avail.

Though reared in the lap of luxury, he had been rocked in the cradle of liberty, and prized the cause of the colonists too highly to abandon it for an oppressive monarchy.

From the time John Hancock entered upon his political career he became so thoroughly identified with the struggle for liberty in Massachusetts, that his biography and that history, are inseparable.

Within a little more than a generation after the com-

mencement of the "plantations" in America, the royal government of London began to make formal inquiries into the population, industries and manufactories, which were renewed until the period of the Revolution.

There was evidently a twofold object in these inquiries—a jealousy lest the colonies should grow too fast, and a desire to monopolize for the benefit of Great Britain, their trade. Manufacturing in the colonies was greatly discouraged in England, it being the desire of the mother country to make the colonies consumers of British products, and producers of raw material.

It is not necessary to a clear understanding of the position of Hancock and his co-laborers to particularize on the various acts of monopoly by Parliament. They uniformly bore heavily on the commercial and manufacturing interests of the colonies, and were designed to keep them in a firmer dependence upon England—to render them beneficial only to the mother government, and to employ and increase English shipping, and build up a place for the disposal of English manufacturers.

The peace of 1763 formed a pretext for a still more grinding policy, that of *taxing* the colonies, with the avowed purpose of a revenue into the royal exchequer, on the seemingly plausible but unwarrantable grounds, that Great Britain had contracted a debt in their defence.

Prior to this when England wanted money from the colonies, the Parliament had been content to ask for it by requisition upon the Colonial Legislature, and they had supplied it with a willing hand; but it was thought that a shorter method might be resorted to, and it was

decided to collect what they wanted, by direct taxation.

Rather than unjust duties should be imposed upon goods, the owners resorted to concealing such as were dutiable. In order to search for such articles Writs of Assistance, or orders were issued by the Superior Court of the province, requiring sheriffs and other civil officers to assist the revenue collector to whom it was granted, in breaking open and searching stores and even private dwellings, if suspected of containing prohibited goods.

Being denied representation in the law making bodies, the colonists were justified in resenting such unjust measures, which were directly in conflict with the old established rule that "a man's house is his castle."

The first application for a writ of this kind was made by a deputy collector at Salem, in November, 1760. Doubts being expressed by the court as to the legality of the writ or power of the court to grant it, the application was deferred to the next term, when the question was to be argued. At this trial Mr. James Otis made his immortal speech, in which according to John Adams he "was a flame of fire."

In all these struggles against the clutching fingers of tyranny young Hancock took a lively interest. Having large mercantile interests, and being a thorough business man, it was only natural that his mind should be early drawn to these discussions.

He was present and heard the famous appeals of Otis and Thatcher before the Superior Court, and his soul was stirred to its very depths. In the language of John Adams,

“Every man of that immensely crowded audience, went away, ready to take up arms against Writs of Assistance. *Then and there was the first scene of the first act of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain.*”

None quitted that scene of excitement more determined to resist to death the encroaching tyranny of the mother country than John Hancock.

The Court postponed a decision until the following term; and in the meantime wrote to Great Britain for information on the subject. Writs were afterward granted in Massachusetts, but they were extremely unpopular, and the law was never rigidly enforced.

The next measure of British oppression and stupidity was the infamous Stamp Act passed by Parliament March 22, 1765. So infamous was the act that while pending in parliament, Mr. Pitt, General Conway, Alderman Beckford, Colonel Barré, Mr. Jackson and Sir William Merrideth opposed it, some on the grounds of expediency, others of its injustice.

This act so noted in the annals of American history; both as an act of flagrant injustice on the part of the Revolution, consisted of fifty-five specific duties, laid on as many different species of instruments in which paper was used; such as notes, bonds, mortgages, deeds, university degrees, licenses, advertisements in newspapers, and even almanacs; varying from *one half penny to six pounds*.

Great Britain seemed to misjudge the temper of her colonists and to forget they were the descendants of those

who left civilization and entered a wilderness, that they might enjoy civil and religious liberties.

It is quite true that the masses deemed it no act of outlawry to break a law in which they could have no part in making. While loyal to the laws of the Colonial legislature which they had by representatives framed, they felt no compunctions of conscience in infringing on the tyrannical enactments forced upon them by a monarchy three thousand miles away.

George III was unpopular from the first with his colonies. It had been said that his weak ambition was to erect a magnificent palace that should surpass that of any other prince in the world, and to raise the funds, he determined on taxing the American Colonies.

Their resistance increased his stubborn determination, and had he not been held in check by such wise and patriotic statesmen as Pitt, Barré, Conway, and others, there is no knowing to what extent his foolish extravagance would have gone.

The Stamp Act was ordered to go into effect in November 1765, and the people in all the colonies boldly and anxiously expressed detestation of the unholy measure.

One day in the month of August, the effigy of Andrew Olliver, the proposed stamp distributor in Massachusetts was found hanging to a tree, afterwards well known as the Liberty Tree in one of the main streets of Boston. At night it was cut down, and carried on a bier amidst the acclamations of an immense collection of people, through the court house, down King Street, to a small

brick building supposed to have been erected for the reception of the detested stamps. The building was soon leveled with the ground, and the mob now swelled to several hundred were so inflamed that they next assailed the home of Mr. Olliver, breaking the windows and destroying a part of the furniture.

The house of Benjamin Hollowell, Junior, controller of the treasury was next entered. Unfortunately the mob found liquors in the cellar, with which they kindled their rage to such an extent it became ungovernable. They next attacked the house of Lieutenant Governor Hutchinson, who after vainly attempting resistance was compelled to fly for life. His was one of the best houses in the province, but by four o'clock in the morning it was in complete ruins, nothing remaining but the bare walls and floors. The plate, family pictures, most of the furniture, the wearing apparel, about nine hundred pounds sterling, the manuscripts and books which Mr. Hutchinson had been thirty years in collecting, were either carried off or destroyed. The whole damage was estimated at two thousand five hundred pounds.

The participants in such scenes, were a motley crowd, white and black, who may be found at all times, hungry for excitement. They were not all law breakers at heart, but driven to excesses by injustice and drink, sought vengeance in the only way feasible to their excited imaginations. For these acts better and wiser men were held responsible.

It was in the midst of such trying scenes that Hancock was elected a member to the Provincial Legislature.

The people of Boston could not have made a wiser selection; not so much for his wealth and influence as for his peculiar abilities to direct thought and legislation, and for his intense love of liberty. In commenting on his election Samuel Adams said:

“Boston has done a wise thing to-day—she’s made that young man’s fortune her own,” and this was literally true for he devoted it all to the public use.

On November 1st, the day on which the Stamp Act was to go into effect, all the bells at early dawn began to toll the knell of departing liberties; many shops and stores were closed, and effigies of the friends and authors of that act were carried about the streets, and afterwards torn to pieces by the enraged populace.

Though we may blame the inflamed populace for these acts of lawlessness, yet we must not lose sight of the fact that only by such covert acts could they express their disapprobation of a law which they had had no part in making, and no power to repeal.

It became a question of armed resistance which forced itself on the colonists, and among the first to grasp the situation, and go to the full extreme against the tyrannical measures of the government, was Hancock.

The war of the Revolution might have been brought on ten years sooner, had not a change in the British ministry brought more conservative men into power, who decided it was wiser to repeal the iniquitous stamp act, than to leave it a farce on the statute books, or uphold it by force of arms.

The repeal act reached Boston about noon Friday,

May 13, 1776, brought by John Hancock's vessel, the brig, "*Harrison*."

Great was the general joy. Church bells immediately pealed forth the glad tidings, ships hoisted their colors to the top of their masts; the "Sons of Liberty" gathered under their favorite tree, where they passed the night with bonfires, toasts and patriotic songs, interspersed with the discharge of guns.

On the common the enthusiastic citizens erected a magnificent pyramid, illuminated by two hundred and eighty lamps, the four upper stories of which were ornamented with figures of the King and Queen, and fourteen of the patriots who had distinguished themselves for their love of liberty. On the four sides of the lower apartment were appropriate poetic inscriptions.

No man of prominence in Boston was more specially concerned in the Stamp Act law than John Hancock. His open denunciations of the law in public and private caused him to be loved at home and feared abroad.

Some of his enemies have attempted to prove that Hancock was instrumental in stirring up the populace to resist with mob violence, but have never been able to convict him of the offense. In fact, he always counseled a legal rather than an illegal resistance, until revolutionary methods became the last resort.

He made himself as conspicuous in the celebration of this joyous occasion as he had been active in opposing the Stamp Act.

The King and Parliament had yielded to the wishes of the suffering people and repealed the law, and he de-

clared that the people were closer bound to their monarch than ever.

He gave a grand entertainment to the genteel part of the town, and treated the populace to a pipe of madeira wine, which had been placed on a platform erected in front of his elegantly illuminated house. The platform was constructed for a twofold purpose—to hold the pipe of wine, and a grand display of fireworks. The whole city caught the spirit of illumination and celebration from Hancock, and all the opponents of the Stamp Act kept open house, while there was general rejoicing in Boston.

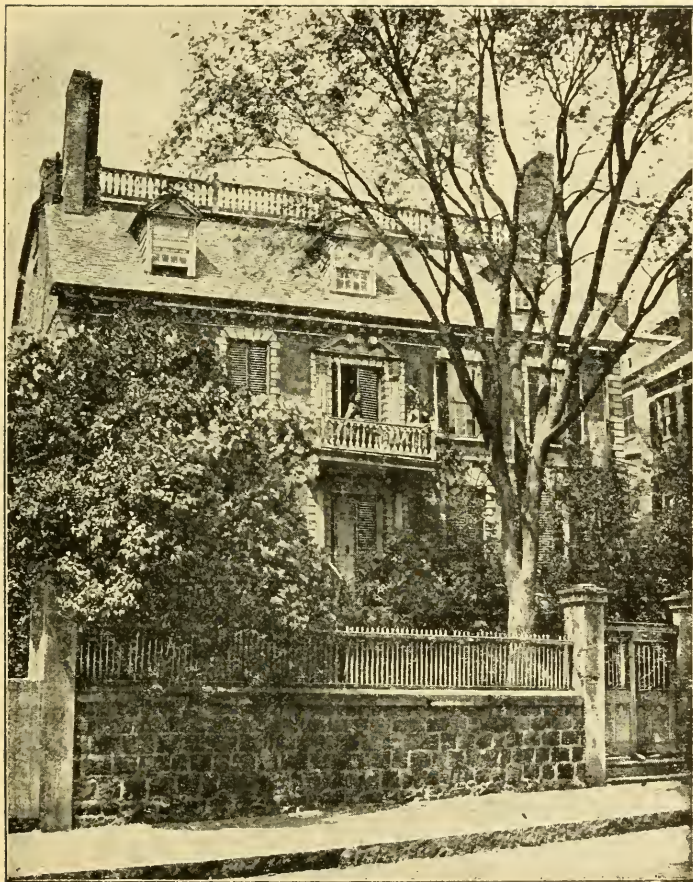
The grand display concluded at eleven o'clock, when at a given signal, a horizontal fire-wheel on the top of the pyramid was set in motion, ending in the discharge of sixteen dozen serpents in the air.

When the grand panorama of light and splendor had gone out, darkness and quiet once more pervaded Boston, and the crowds dispersed, singly, or in groups until the streets were deserted and silence prevailed.

Hancock, the manager of the celebration, had conducted it with such consummate skill as to give offense to no one, everything had been done in perfect order, and the utmost good feeling prevailed.

By a previous invitation of the governor, his majesty's council met at the Province House in the afternoon, where many loyal toasts were drunk, and then in the evening they went to the common to witness the display of fire-works.

The Crown and the Provincial officers exchanged



Hancock's House, Boston.
As it appears at the present time.

congratulations; past differences were forgotten, and that 16th day of May was a *red letter day* in the memory of the people of Boston.

Before the glad sounds of rejoicing at the repeal of the Stamp Act had mellowed into the harmony of confident hope, the ministry of England by its unwise and unjust acts, again awakened loud murmurs of discontent throughout the American Colonies.

The germ of new oppression, was the Declaratory Act, which appeared so harmless at first but began to expand in the genial soil of ministerial culture. A resolution passed the House of Commons, demanding of the colonies restitution to the crown officers who had suffered loss by the Stamp Act riots. This being just, the colonies complied; Massachusetts however, in passing the Indemnification Bill, inserted a provision that a free pardon should be extended to all concerned.

Much bad feeling was engendered by the insolent manner in which the settlement of the claims was demanded. Governor Bernard of Massachusetts was so peremptory and insulting, that the people of Boston flatly refused to pay, until the governor altered his tone, when they complied.

With such spirits as Hancock, Adams and Otis stirring the people with eloquence and example, they could not become otherwise than patriotic, and never were people more jealous of their liberties than the inhabitants of Massachusetts.

Hancock was himself the most vigilant and enthusiastic of all. He infused his spirit and personality in the

cause of freedom until the people of Massachusetts soon came to look upon him as their leader in the cause of liberty.

He was so pronounced and so bold in his utterances both in public and private that he astounded both Colonists and royalists.

The latter were willing to extend to him the olive branch of peace, and would have made him powerful and popular in the world if he would have turned against his neighbors. But Hancock was too loyal to the principle of liberty to yield to any promise or advancement. He valued the esteem of the poorest patriot in Boston more highly than that of the governor of the Colony or King on the throne.

He held frequent conferences with the Adamses, who were his intimate friends, on the gravity of the situation and dangers which menaced the country.

For a man of such unbounded wealth, upon which the enemy might prey at any moment, Hancock seems to have lacked discretion. He was continually menaced with imprisonment and confiscation. But he was still a young man and, perhaps had not arrived at the ripe age of discretion when silence is thought to be golden. The modern term of "jingoism" could appropriately be applied to him.

In numerous interviews with the Adamses, Otis and others, the clause of the Annual Mutiny Act was discussed. This, Hancock properly viewed as taxation in disguise, and a measure not calculated to strengthen royal power in America, but to shift a heavy burden from

the shoulders of the home government to those of the colonies. The clause provided that the British troops that might be sent to America, should be furnished quarters, beer, salt and vinegar at the expense of the people.

Though the tax was small and easily borne, Hancock argued that it involved the principles, substantially, that were avowed in the Stamp Act; and was more odious because the intent was to make the people support bayonets sent to abridge their liberties. Not only did Hancock and Samuel Adams urge the opposition to the act at home, but abroad.

Hancock, as well as Adams, was an excellent letter writer, and enjoyed a wide range of acquaintance among the more influential men in the colonies.

Chiefly through the influence of these two men, New York and Massachusetts refused to comply with the provisions in the clause in the Annual Mutiny Act, and opposition, as zealous as that against the Stamp Act, was aroused.

The Mutiny Act granted power to every officer, upon obtaining a warrant from a justice, to break into any house, by day or night, in search of deserters.

Like Writs of Assistance, these powers might be, and indeed were used by unprincipled men for other than ostensible purposes; and the guaranty of the British constitution that every man's house was his castle, and inviolate, was subverted.

The Rockingham cabinet proved too liberal for the friends of the king, and on August 2, 1766, it was dis-

solved. The new cabinet formed by his majesty's commands under the control of Mr. Pitt, who had just been created Earl of Chatham, caused a feeling of uncertainty among the colonists. The Earl of Chatham, the hope of the American people, proved to be not strong enough to save them.

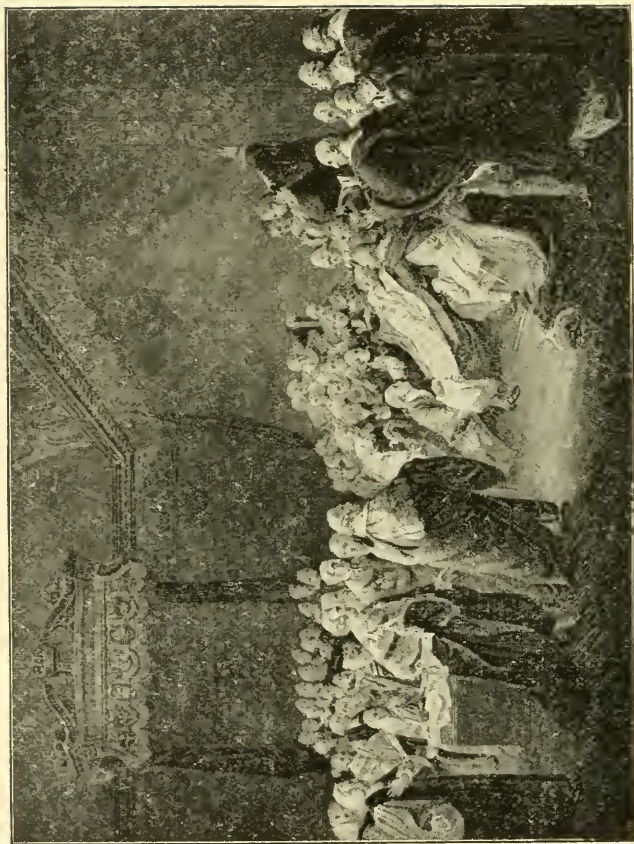
The Duke of Grafton was placed at the head of the treasury, and Charles Townshend made chancellor of the exchequer. In May, 1767, the latter revived the scheme of taxing America, proposing to impose duties on glass, paper and tea, imported into the colonies.

The Earl of Chatham at that time being confined to his bed by sickness, the remaining friends of the colonies in parliament were not strong enough to prevent the passage of the bill through both houses, and it became a law.

The news of this measure, on reaching America, produced the greatest possible excitement. Counter measures were immediately proposed. Resort was had, as at a former day, to non-importation, the effect of which had been so severely felt by the traders in England under the Stamp Act.

As on the other occasion Hancock and Adams headed the opposition in Boston, boldly denouncing the act as tyrannical.

The fury with which Hancock had assailed the Stamp Act was mild in comparison to his boldness in denouncing the last measure. When we consider that he could have greatly added to his own wealth and power by espousing the cause of the crown, we can not doubt his



Death of the Earl of Chatham.

patriotism. He was present at the town meeting in October at which it was voted that measures should immediately be taken to promote the establishment of domestic manufactories, by encouraging the consumption of all articles of American manufacture. They furthermore agreed to purchase no articles of foreign growth or manufacture, but such as were absolutely indispensable.

New York and Philadelphia soon followed the example of Boston; and in a short time the merchants themselves entered into associations to import nothing from Great Britain, save such articles as were absolutely necessary.

Through all this commercial war, one may see the skillful management of Hancock, even though he was campaigning against his own financial interests. Being an importer, he knew that the most effective blow to strike at the mother country and the blow that would be most keenly felt, was at her commerce.

On the other hand his enemies may say that it was by the evasion of such laws that he made his profits. The evasion of the unjust law was popular at that time and in full accord with the ethics of most of the oppressed colonists.

It was the resistance of such tyrannical measures, at that time thought patriotic, that has caused Hancock to be stigmatized by some weak-writers as a smuggler. Often there are nice distinctions between patriots and outlaws, just as there are between fanaticism and sagacity.

If the patriots of the Revolution had failed in securing their own liberties, they would have been outlaws.

There can be no revolution or rebellion against law or government however tyrannical, without violation of law. On the other hand there has never been a rebellion against a perfect government. People who neither directly nor indirectly have any part in making laws that govern them, have more excuse for avoiding odious and offensive enactments, than those who possess the elective franchise.

If Hancock was an outlaw, his patriotism made him one, and no one can lay the charge of smuggling for gain at his door. He could easily have doubled his princely fortune by adhering to the oppressive course of the king; but his great generous heart was with his struggling countrymen and he resolved to cast his lot with them.

If the people are morally and legally makers of their own laws, Hancock and Adams never infringed on the code. The rules of foreign potentates across the ocean, they had come to feel were laws which, morally, they had no right to respect.

The year 1767 passed amid continual strife and agitation in the Colonies, especially in Boston, which was regarded by the British as the hot bed of sedition.

At the beginning of 1768, the American people educated by a long series of moral and political contests with the government of Great Britain, and assured by recent experience and observation of their own sound and potent physical and moral strength and the justice of their cause, stood in an attitude of firm resolve not to submit to the new schemes of the ministry for their enslavement.

Though determined to have home rule inviolate in their political affairs, yet they were willing to bear with patience the pressure upon their industrial enterprise of old acts of Parliament still unrepealed.

As yet Hancock was eminently loyal and proud of the honor of being a British subject in its broadest sense of nationality, as were his contemporary patriots. Nevertheless to the eye of the superficial observer, the Americans were at that time in a state of open revolt. Representative assemblies, representing the people, were defying the power of Great Britain which threatened to impose unjust and unconstitutional laws upon them with bullet and bayonet. The non-importation agreements, working disastrously against British commerce, were again in full force; and the spirit of resistance was ripe among the masses.

Hancock though a determined leader was more conservative than the masses. We have doubts however if the term leader is ever justly applied in any movement. In all great reforms and revolutions it is the masses who take the initiatory, and those who accompany and direct their cause are called leaders. The leaders are conservative men who "wait on judgment," for having reputations, and fortunes at stake, they naturally are more careful than the reckless masses with neither.

Hancock deprecating the spasmodic violence in opposition to the Stamp Act, counselled moderation, and condemned any but legal, just, and dignified measures. He saw that a crisis was at hand, when statesmanship of the highest order would be needed in the popular represen-

tative assemblies, and wise and judicious men were wanted as popular leaders of the people.

Without possessing the fiery eloquence of an Otis or Patrick Henry, or the deep statesman-like oratory of an Adams, Hancock was a fluent and scholarly speaker, with a manner and address that was pleasing and popular. Those who heard the smooth sentences rolling from his tongue were spell-bound, convicted and convinced by his earnest, impressive manner. But it was in deliberative assemblies that his power was most felt. In all the deliberations of the patriot leaders during that stormy period, the counsel of Hancock had great weight. He was bold but cautious, courteous but firm as a mountain, when an invasion of the rights of the poorest of the common people were at stake.

We can safely say that he went farther in the beginning than many other patriots dared venture. His expressions sometimes partook of the nature of defiance, and open rebellion, when others trembled at the thought.

One day a placard appeared on the Boston common, containing a call on the "Sons of Liberty," to "rise and fight for their rights," saying that legions would join them.

The above placard was denounced by James Otis as a rash, undignified and unlawful measure. John Dickinson deprecated anything like harsh measures with the mother country, and declared they must gain their liberties by constitutional methods.

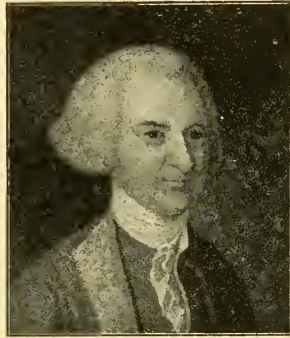
But the affairs of men sometimes reach a point where law and constitution fail, and then revolutionary means

must be resorted to. When corrupt, unprincipled and tyrannical men seize the ship of state, and with it the courts, it is mockery to speak of constitutional methods.

Hancock knew this, and when appealed to answered evasively:

"Vox populi vox dei!" When the populace revolts we must follow. While we shall not lead the way to revolution, I apprehend that we are in danger of being driven to it."

At this time he was no more of a revolutionist than Otis and Dickinson, but his keen perceptive faculties no doubt enabled him to dip further into the future, and reason on what the outcome would be, than contemporaneous statesmen.



John Dickinson.

At the opening of the assembly of Massachusetts at the beginning of 1768, the several obnoxious acts recently passed by Parliament were read and referred to a committee on the state of the province. That committee submitted a letter addressed to the agent of the colony in England, but intended for the ministry.

It set forth the rights of the Americans; their equality with British subjects as free citizens, and their right to local self-government.

It set forth loyalty and disclaimed a desire for independence; opposing the late acts merely on the grounds

of constitutionality; remonstrated against the maintaining of a standing army in America as expensive, useless, altogether inadequate to compel obedience, and dangerous to liberty.

It objected to the establishment in America of commissioners of customs, and many other measures which the members thought infringements on their liberties.

Hancock was no doubt consulted by Samuel Adams when he wrote his famous Circular Letter to the several colonial assemblies, informing them of the letter to the agent and the petition to the king, and inviting them to join the people of Massachusetts in "maintaining the liberties of America."

Hancock may have even suggested the famous epistle, for it is quite evident that he was among the very first, if not the first, to suggest a Continental Congress, the object of which was to resent if not resist the encroachments of Great Britain on the colonies.

This famous Circular Letter was laid before Governor Bernard, and excited his fears and indignation. He sent a copy with a personal letter expressing his views to the Earl of Hillsborough. That person received it about the middle of April, and sent instructions to the Governor to call upon the General Assembly of Massachusetts to rescind their resolutions, the substance of which was embodied in their circular, and in the event of refusal to dissolve them.

Meanwhile the most cheering responses had come to the Massachusetts Assembly from the colonies. About this time Hancock had been informed that General Gage

at New York had been ordered to hold a regiment of soldiers in readiness to send to Boston, to aid the crown officers in executing the laws. The admiralty was also directed to send a frigate and four smaller vessels of war to Boston harbor for the same purpose, with directions for repairing and occupying Castle William.

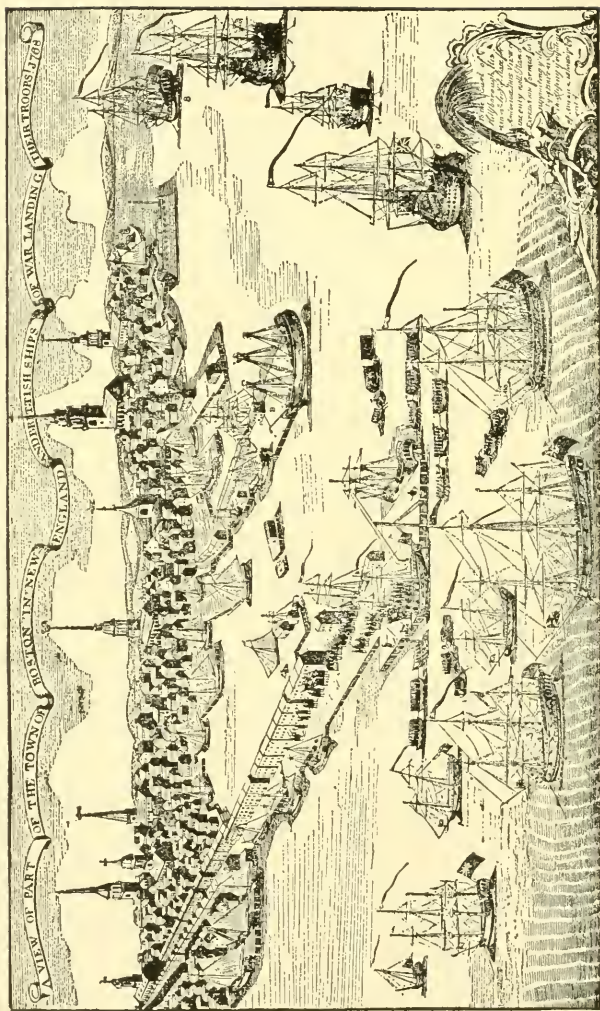
The tendency of the colonists to evade the pernicious revenue laws forced upon them, made this step seem important to the stubborn king. Mr. Lossing says the Americans regarded this measure as a virtual declaration of war, nevertheless wiser heads resolved to keep the sword of resistance in the scabbard as long as possible.

As John Hancock was much interested in the commerce of Boston, being the owner of several vessels, the extreme measures taken against that town, were intended as a punishment of him.

The commissioners of customs and commander of the sloop-of-war which, at their request, had come to Boston from Halifax, on their arrival assumed the utmost insolence of manner and speech toward the people. New England men were pressed into the British naval service, and treated worse than slaves.

There lived in Boston at this time a man named Malcolm, who had formerly been a sailor in Hancock's employ. Historians call him "a bold smuggler," and perhaps the charge was true, though there was no evidence that he engaged in smuggling while in Hancock's employ.

Hancock was an easy task master, and never was employer more liberal with employees. He paid good



Boston Harbor in 1768, from a Drawing Engraved and Printed by Paul Revere.
a. Long Wharf. *b.* Hancock's Wharf. *c.* North Battery. Landing of British Troops in the Foreground.

wages, rewarded merit, and won their love and confidence.

Malcolm was a brawling fellow, brave as a lion, and an ardent hater of despotism. He was continually engaged in quarrels and often in fights with the custom-house officers and soldiers. He had a numerous following among the "long-shoremen," many of whom were as eager as himself for a collision with the soldiers and officers of the crown, whom they had come to regard as their natural enemies.

In June, 1768, John Hancock's sloop, "*Liberty*," entered Boston harbor with a cargo of Madeira wine. The custom-house officers had grown to both hate and fear the owner, and were longing for an opportunity to injure him for his presumed insolence.

Just at sunset the "tide-waiter" under the commissioners went on board, and entering the cabin seated himself at the table to drink punch with the master, while the sailors landed the dutiable goods. This was the lax custom faithfully observed by the revenue officers.

Hancock had resolved to resist to the iniquitous revenue laws in every possible way. The whole country was resisting the oppression of their common enemy, and the reader must keep in mind the fact that his evading the law was not for personal gain.

"Those who purchased his goods duty free
Received the profit, and not he."

About nine o'clock in the evening, the captain of the "*Liberty*" and others, among whom was Malcolm, en-

tered the cabin, seized the "tide-waiter," confined him, and proceeded to land the wine without entering it at the custom-house, or observing any other formula prescribed by the crown officers. The master of the "*Liberty*" exerted himself so greatly in landing the cargo that he died from the effects, before morning.

Just as the last cask was landed, the sloop was seized by the officers of customs for violation of the revenue laws. The news of the seizure of the vessel spread like wild-fire through the town.

A crowd of citizens quickly gathered at the wharf, and as the proceedings went on, the lower order consisting of loafers, boys and negroes, became a mob under the leadership of Malcolm. The collector (Harrison) and controller (Hallowell) hurried to the dock to enforce the law. Mr. Harrison recommended that the sloop remain at Hancock's wharf with the broad arrow mark, to denote legal seizure; but Hallowell, who was both passionate and profane, swore she should not, and ordered her to be taken and moored under the guns of the British war-vessel "*Romney*."

He went aboard the "*Liberty*," and after a brief conversation with the tide-waiter came to the wharf and sent for the boats of the "*Romney*" to come and take the sloop away. An exciting scene followed, which Mr. Bancroft gives in the following graphic style:

"You had better let the vessel be at the wharf," said Malcolm.

"I shall not," said Hallowell, and gave directions to cut the fasts.

"Stop at least till the owner comes," said the people who crowded round.

"No," cried Hallowell, "cast her off."

"I'll split out the brains of any man who offers to receive a fast or stop a vessel," said the master of the "*Romney*;" and he shouted to the marines to fire.

"What rascal is that who dares to tell the marines to fire?" cried a Bostoner; and turning to Harrison, the collector, a well meaning man, who disapproved the violent manner of the seizure, he added: "The owner is sent for; you had better let her lie at the wharf until he comes down."

"No, she shall go," insisted the controller; "show me the man who dares oppose it!"

"Kill the scoundrel," cried the master.

"We will throw the people of the '*Romney*' overboard," said Malcolm, stung with anger.

"She shall go," repeated the master, with a strong expletive, and he once more called on the marines, "why don't you fire?" and bade them fire.

So they cut her moorings, and with ropes on the barges, the sloop was towed away to the "*Romney*."

All the while the owner of the sloop seized by the marines and revenue officers, was at home unconscious of the great excitement caused by the seizure of his ship. When the messenger came to him with the information, he hastened to the wharf, but his vessel was already seized and being drawn up along side the "*Romney*."

The hot indignation of the people was aroused by the high handed act of Hallowell. A mob of whites and

negroes, followed the custom-house officers, pelted them with stones and other missiles, and broke the windows of their offices. A pleasure boat belonging to the collector was seized by some of the enraged mob, and after being dragged through the town was burned on the common.

The fires of rage having burned out, the exhausted mob dispersed and quietly returned to their homes. Though unhurt the commissioners were greatly alarmed. They applied to the Governor for protection, but he, as much frightened as they, plead that he was powerless to save them. They finally fled to the "*Romney*," and thence to Castle William, nearly three miles south-east of the city, where a company of British artillery was stationed.

Hancock deprecated the conduct of the mob, though he was the chief sufferer from the officers. Aided by Warren, Adams and Otis, he soon had the people under control so the collectors would really have been in no danger had they remained in their offices.

The above incident formed one of the pretexts on the part of the royal Governor for sending troops to Boston, an act that culminated in Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill, the Revolution and Independence of the United States.

John Hancock, one of the most watchful and vigilant of all the liberty loving colonists, was at one moment the intended object of royal favor, and next of its vengeance. He was cool, unperturbed, and continued on in the even tenor of his way, always looking to the lib-

erties and interests of his countrymen more than to his own welfare.

Orders had been given General Gage, then at New York, to be in readiness to furnish troops whenever Bernard should make a requisition for them. When that officer heard of the disturbance in the New England capital, he sent word to the Governor that the troops were in readiness to march at a moment's notice.

Bernard was really anxious to send for them, for he was a revengeful man, but could not make the requisition without consent of his council, and that body perversely declared that the civil power did not need the support of soldiers, nor was it for his majesty's service or peace of the province that they should be required.

When the desires and acts of Bernard became known, it was with difficulty the indignation of the citizens of Boston could be restrained. Satisfied that sooner or later troops would be sent under some pretext, they resolved to put the engine of non-importation, which had worked so powerfully before, into vigorous operation.

During the month of August, 1768, nearly all the merchants of Boston subscribed to such a league, to go into operation on the first of January following, hoping, through the influence of the British merchants, to restrain the hand of the home government raised to strike them. The Sons of Liberty were everywhere active, watching every movement of the crown officers.

One day a British army officer was discovered on the streets of Boston, evidently making arrangements for barracks for the expected troops. The alarm was at

once given, and the city roused. A town meeting was called at the famous Faneuil Hall which appointed a committee, consisting of Hancock, Otis, John and Samuel Adams, to wait on the Governor and ascertain if the visit of the officer was for such a purpose, and to request him to call a special session of the legislature.

Bernard informed them that troops were about to be quartered in Boston, but declined to call the assembly until he should hear from home. The first part of the interview was stormy. Added to the defiant firmness of Hancock, was the fiery eloquence of Otis and the deep logic and statesmanship of Samuel Adams. They were calm but determined. Every word uttered was carefully weighed, and the Governor had good cause for alarm.

Four more powerful and popular men could not have been found in Boston. All Boston, which amounted to more than sixteen thousand souls, was behind them. The Governor who had set out to be firm gradually grew more pacific, and the interview which began stormy, had a mild termination.

Of all the committee the Governor knew Hancock was most to be feared. He possessed wealth, and money in those days was a power as it is at present. Besides he was popular among all classes. His great liberality, his love of justice, and above all his sympathy with the common people from the day laborer to the merchant, farmer and tradesman, made him their idol. He determined once more to placate him. Not being above offering bribes he attempted in a subtle form to beguile the staid true patriot who risked so much for the people

with a bribe, in the form of a commission as a member of his council.

If the Governor supposed that John Hancock was to be bought off with official honors, he was very much mistaken. The political purity of Hancock cannot be doubted even if his maligners should denounce him as a smuggler.

As any other just man would have been, he was righteously indignant at the attempt, and on receiving the commission tore it to pieces. Baffled in his efforts to secure Hancock the Governor determined to attempt the placation of other leaders. He offered the lucrative office of advocate general in the court of admiralty to John Adams, who instantly rejected it. He cautiously approached the sturdy Puritan, Samuel Adams, with honeyed words and an offer of place, but received such a rebuke that he never dared mention the subject to him again.

When it became evident that the Governor would not call the Assembly, a town meeting that was ordered, recommended that a convention of delegates from all the towns in the province be held in Boston, under the plausible pretext that the prevailing apprehensions of war with France required a general consultation; though apprehension of war with the mother country was the real cause for the movement.

The convention assembled September 22, 1768, with more than one hundred delegates, representing every town and district in the province, save one. Thomas Cushing, speaker of the Assembly, presided. They pe-

tioned the Governor to summon a general court; but he answered by denouncing the convention as a treasonable body. They disclaimed all pretensions to political authority, and professed the utmost loyalty to the king, and said they had met in that "dark and distressing time to consult and advise as to the best manner in preserving peace and good order."

The Governor had made a requisition on Gage for troops, who ordered them from Halifax to Boston. In daily expectation of their arrival he ordered the convention to disperse without delay; but those stern patriots unmoved by orders or threats, stood firm to their purpose and remained in session six days, but were careful to take no immoderate action.

They adopted a petition to the king, and an address to the people in which they set forth the alarming state of the country, advising abstinence from violence, and submission to legal authority.

The convention had just adjourned when the white sails of eight vessels of war appeared at the entrance to Boston Harbor, bearing the two regiments of British soldiers General Gage had ordered from Halifax, commanded by colonels Dalrymple and Carr.

In his zeal to carry out the wishes of the royal Governor, Gage sent his engineer, Montessor, to assist the troops if necessary. That officer bore an order in accordance with the wishes of Governor Bernard, to land troops in the settled parts of Boston. Accordingly on Saturday morning, October 1, 1768, the ships moved up to the city, anchored with springs on their cables; and

against the solemn protests of the people, the soldiers were landed at the Long Wharf, under cover of the guns of the war vessels.

After vainly trying to quarter the troops on the town,



Gray House, Pine Street, Boston. Built 1750. Used as a Hospital by the British.

the commanding officer was forced to pitch tents on the commons for them.

Thus backed up by the military the custom-house officers returned to Boston to resume their authority. One of their first acts was an attempt at revenge in the name of retributive justice. From the seizure of Hancock's vessel and the riots which resulted from it, the commissioners of customs had not dared venture from Castle

William under whose protecting guns they had sought shelter. But the arrival of soldiers and the sight of their snowy tents on Boston Common made them bold; they returned, more haughty and insolent than before.

It was only natural that the full fury of their vengeance should fall on Hancock. He and the "bold smuggler" Malcolm were arrested on false charges, claiming penalties for violations of acts of Parliament, which in Hancock's case amounted to almost half a million dollars. Hancock employed John Adams as his counsel, and that learned advocate said:

"A painful drudgery I had of his case and not a charge was established."

Shortly after the above incidents, the Earl of Chatham, that Englishman of honor and sterling worth, who was ever the friend of America, offended at the king's insolence, resigned, and Lord North was installed as leader of the British ministry. North was only the echo of the monarch, who swayed this minister with perfect control.

The king had made it an inflexible rule never to redress a grievance unless such redress was prayed for in a spirit of obedience and humility. He also determined to assert the right of Parliament to tax the colonies, and insisted that one tax must always be laid to keep up that right; so the king and his pliant minister clung to the duty on tea.

Hancock foresaw the inevitable drift of things. He was thoroughly conversant with the temper of the American people, not only in Massachusetts but in all the colonies.

When others still scouted at the idea of war he gravely shook his head and declared it must come. He knew that the citizens of Boston could not much longer endure the growing insolence of the king's soldiers.

Instead of being thoroughly disciplined obedient troops, the soldiery seemed a horde of ruffians who emulated with each other in the perpetration of outrage and insult on the citizens. That the officers were not only cognizant of their conduct but encouraged it, there can be no question.

From the landing of the soldiers to March 5, 1770, there seemed to be an inevitable drift to one condition, and an approach of the terrible climax.

What is known as the Boston Massacre, began at the shop of a rope-maker, where a British soldier in a boxing match with some of the workmen got worsted, and going to the barracks returned with a sufficient number of his dissolute comrades to chase all the rope-makers through the streets.

The citizens naturally sympathized with the rope-makers, and that afternoon began to gather in large numbers to avenge the wrongs of the workmen. But the civil and military authorities took steps to at least postpone a collision. The trouble with the rope-makers occurred on Friday, March 2, and there was no more outbreak until the evening of Monday, March 5th.

The ground was covered with a thin coating of snow, and the moon but dimly illuminated the scene when the citizens and soldiers, as if impelled by acts of vengeance, began to assemble on the streets. Taunts and jeers from

side to side became the order of the day. Had the commander of the troops been as desirous of preventing a quarrel as he pretended, he would have kept the troops in their barracks, instead of permitting them to roam the streets and stir up quarrels. By seven o'clock a large mob, armed with stones and clubs, were on King, now State street, shouting to the lawless soldiers:

"Let us drive out these rascals! They have no business here—drive them out!"

Bands of soldiers were roaming about the streets boasting of their valor, cursing Hancock and Adams, and threatening them and their friends with the most dire vengeance.

At last unable to longer endure their taunts, the people assailed them and drove them about the town, until Captain Preston, the officer of the day, sent eight armed men to help a soldier whom the mob was threatening. There was a collision, the soldiers fired, and three of the populace were killed and two mortally wounded.

Preston and his soldiers were arrested and tried on the charge of murder; they were defended by John Adams, and acquitted.

Hancock was shocked by the Boston massacre. He knew that technically and legally the mob was to blame, for they had acted in a lawless manner, but back of it all he saw the righteous indignation which had incited them to riot, and realized that this effusion of blood would not be the end.

He was at the town gathering in the Old South Meeting-House, then the largest building in the city, where

a resolution was offered "that nothing could be expected to restore peace and prevent carnage, but an immediate removal of the troops." He was also one of the committee of fifteen of which Samuel Adams was chairman that carried the resolution to Hutchinson and Dalrymple. This committee driven to desperation, became bold, and Adams addressing the governor said:

"The people are determined to remove the troops out of town by force if they will not go voluntarily. They are not such people as formerly pulled down your house, that conduct these measures, but men of estates, men of religion. The people will come into us from all the neighboring towns; we shall have ten thousand men at our backs, and your troops will probably be destroyed by the people, be it called rebellion or what it may."

Hutchinson answered:

"An attack on the Kings troops would be high treason, and every man concerned in it would forfeit his life and estate."

But after much parleying he promised to withdraw one regiment from the city. This, however did not placate the enraged Americans, and Hancock was chosen on another committee representing the citizens of Boston to carry a resolution from the town meeting informing Hutchinson that it was "the unanimous opinion of the meeting, that the reply made to the vote of the inhabitants, presented to his honor this morning, is by no means satisfactory, and that nothing else will satisfy them but a total and immediate removal of all the troops."

The committee informed Hutchinson that there must be no more trifling with the will of the people.

After a hasty conference between Hutchinson and Dalrymple it was decided to send the troops to Castle William. The committee returned to the meeting with the good news, and the old South Meeting-House rang with acclamations of joy. The troops were sent out of town as soon as it could be done, and the "Sons of Liberty" thus scored another victory.

The crown officers continued to incite the colonists to resistance by their continual tantalizing conduct; displaying both a hatred and weakness which only tended to increase the boldness of the Americans.

The burning of the "*Gaspe*" June 9, 1772, prompted by the insolence of her commander was only one of many daring and lawless deeds of the time. It seemed that the most tyrannical and over-bearing officers were placed over the colonists to excite them to greater rage.

Considering the timidity of wealthy men of the present, one might think Hancock, though a patriot, would have been more conservative for the sake of his property. He was in greater peril than any other, for he was more easily injured. His wealth consisted of houses and land in the city of Boston as well as his ships on the seas, all of easy access to the crown.

But Hancock was no "latter-day patriot," and neither danger to his person nor fortune intimidated him. He was not even what one would call conservative, for he "advocated armed resistance to oppression, even when Otis, the Adamses, and others were depending on the law

and constitution. "Of what avail is law and constitution when administered by tyrants who violate it themselves?" argued Hancock.

This was dangerous doctrine at a time when a single spark might set the whole magazine aflame. Of all the patriots of his day, he was one of the most daring. He was at most of the town-meetings, served on dangerous committees, and whether addressing the mob on the street, or members of the Colonial assembly, his language was bold, courageous, but marked with dignity and erudition.

He faced the inevitable and accepted the issue as from the hand of fate. At the funeral of the victims of the Boston massacre, he delivered an address, so glowing and fearless in its reprobation of the conduct of the soldiery and their leaders, as to greatly offend the governor.

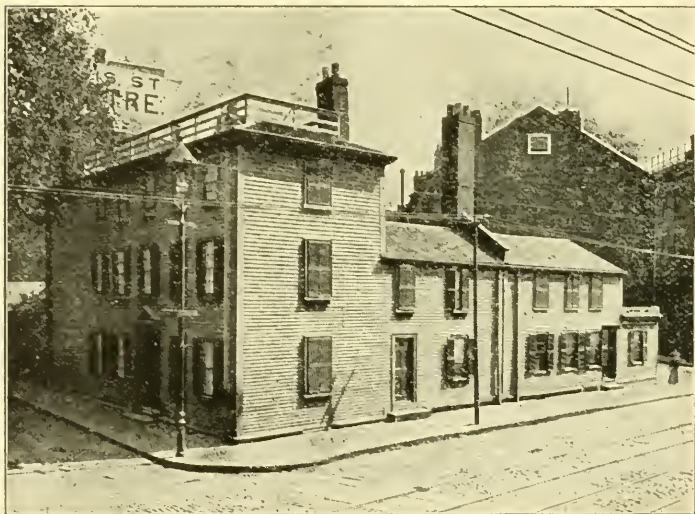
The year 1773 marked another era in the trouble between Great Britain and her Colonies. The determination to force tea upon them culminated in another riot, but one without blood-shed.

Early on Monday morning, November 29, 1773, hand bills were scattered all over Boston containing the following,

"Friends! Bretheren! Countrymen! That worst of plagues, the detested tea, shipped for this port by the East India Company, is now arrived in the harbor; the hour of destruction, or manly opposition to the machinations of tyranny, stares you in the face; every friend to his country, to himself and posterity is now called upon to meet at Faneuil Hall, at nine o'clock, this day, at

which time the bells will ring, to make united and successful resistance to this last, worst, and most destructive measure of administration."

The subject of this sketch may have been the author



"Tea Party" House, Tremont Street, Boston. Built 1735.
(Copyright by W. A. French.)

of the above call. At any rate he was at the meeting in Faneuil Hall, which proving too small, they adjourned to the famous old South Meeting-House, where the people resolved that the tea should not be landed.

The meeting "moved the captain of the *'Dartmouth'* not to attempt to land the tea." A number of post riders were appointed to carry the news to other towns, in case there should be an attempt to land by force.

The consignees offered to store the tea until they could hear from England; but the Bostonians were determined. "Not a pound shall be landed," was their declaration.

On the 14th of December it was resolved to order Mr. Rotch to immediately apply for a clearance for his ship, and send her to sea, as all his cargo had been landed except the tea.

In the meantime the stubborn Governor had determined the ship should not leave the harbor before the tea was landed, and took measures to prevent her sailing until he had forced the obnoxious article on the people of Boston.

He wrote to the ministry, advising the prosecution of some of the Sons of Liberty in Boston, for high crimes and misdemeanors. He ordered Admiral Montague to place two armed ships at the entrance to Boston Harbor to prevent the egress of vessels; and directed Colonel Leslie, who was in command at the Castle, not to allow any vessel to pass out from the range of his great guns, without a permit signed by himself.

Mr. Rotch was refused clearance from the custom-house officers, and appealed to the Governor, but was again refused a clearance, until he landed the tea. The people said it should not be landed, and the Governor determined to force it upon them. The great old South Meeting-House was crowded to its utmost.

Josiah Quincy, a young lawyer feeble in body, but a giant in intellect, delivered a stirring address to the people. He spoke until after sunset, and candles were

lighted, and concluded just before Mr. Rotch returned with the information that the Governor had peremptorily refused him permission to send his vessel to sea, before the tea was landed.

A murmur ran over the vast assembly, which was hushed when Samuel Adams rose to his feet. His speech was not long, but it was significant. It bid farewell to peaceful and lawful measures and threw the people upon themselves for recourse. In an even clear voice he said:

“This meeting can do no more to save the country.”

At that moment a person painted and dressed like a Mohawk Indian gave a war-whoop in the gallery, which was responded to in kind at the door. Another voice in the gallery shouted:

“Boston Harbor a teapot to-night! Hurrah for Griffin’s wharf.”

The meeting adjourned, and the people hurried in a throng to the wharf, following a number of men disguised as Indians. The populace cheered. Guards were posted to keep order, and among them was Hancock, whom nothing seemed to daunt. He took no pains to conceal his identity, and while he took no part in the destruction of the tea, he aided in keeping the great throng of onlookers quiet while the deed was done, preventing any further rioting.

About fifty-nine young men, most of whom were disguised as Indians, though some were not disguised at all, went on board the tea-ships, and in the course of three hours, emptied three hundred and forty-two chests

of tea into the harbor. Events seemed to rush on the heels of each other, so swiftly did they come about. The destruction of the tea in Boston Harbor only widened the breach between Great Britain and her colonies.

1774 was an auspicious year not only in Hancock's life but in the history of the American people. He was made a member of the committee on correspondence, and was kept busy night and day, preparing the people of the province for energetic action. The importance of these committees may be understood by the estimate placed on them by a Tory who wrote of them:

"This is the foulest, subtlest, and most venomous serpent ever issued from the egg of sedition. *It is the source of rebellion.* * * * "

Hutchinson was supplanted by General Gage, who sent four additional regiments to Boston. About this time the Boston Port Bill became known to the people of the city.

While Gage was being dined by the magistrates and others on his arrival in Boston May 13, 1774, the enraged populace were burning his predecessor in effigy on the broad common in front of John Hancock's house.

Gage came to Boston fully warned of Hancock, and prepared to take the most extreme measures against him and Adams. Not only had Hancock been the most active of the committee of correspondence, but had urged a general congress, which measure caused the crown grave apprehensions.

The circular letter explained why Massachusetts had been under the necessity of proceeding to extreme meas-

ures, and entreated for future guidance the benefit of the councils of the whole country.

On March 5, 1774, Hancock spoke to a large audience in Boston with his usual logic and boldness. In the course of his speech he said:

“Permit me to suggest a general Congress of deputies from the several houses of assembly on the continent, as the most effectual method of establishing a union for the security of our rights and liberties. Remember from whom you sprang. Not only pray, but act; if necessary fight and even die for the prosperity of our New Jerusalem.”

To General Gage, with his ideas of the divine rights of kings and royalists, this speech breathed treason of the darkest hue. The British ministry put great reliance in the military ability of Gage to over-awe the rebellious subjects of Massachusetts.

Almost the first act of the Governor was to make Hancock the object of his official displeasure. In less than three months after his arrival he revoked his commission in the Boston cadets, and that company resented the insult by returning the king's standard and disbanding.

Alarmed at the rebellious spirit manifested by the colonists, Gage removed the seat of government from Salem back to Boston, and began to fortify the Neck. Some of the troops further aggravated matters by seizing a quantity of gunpowder at Charleston and Cambridge which belonged to the province.

A convention was held September 6, 1774, at which

it was resolved that no obedience was due to any part of the late acts of Parliament. On the day before the meeting of the convention, the General Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, and the information of the firm course it took, greatly strengthened the cause of liberty in Massachusetts. The patriots of Boston began to assume a bolder tone.

Gage summoned the House of Representatives to meet at Salem, to proceed to business, according to the new order of things under the late acts of Parliament.

Town meetings were held, but so revolutionary were their proceedings, that Gage countermanded his order for the assembly. His right to countermand was denied, and most of the members elect, to the number of ninety, met at Salem. On the day of appointment, of course Gage was not there, and as nobody appeared to open the court, or administer the oaths, they resolved themselves into a provincial Congress and adjourned to Concord. By this act Massachusetts had really set up an independent government in opposition to the king.

At Concord they organized by choosing John Hancock president, and Benjamin Lincoln, afterwards a general in the Revolutionary army, secretary. Mr. Hancock presided with that dignity and wisdom over the deliberations of the provincial Congress which the grave conditions of their country required. Practically in open rebellion against his king the presiding officer realized his position, and though his conduct was marked with caution, there was no vacillation, hesitation, or weakness in any of his actions.

The denunciations of Gage had no other effect than to increase the zeal of the patriots. The provincial Congress proceeded to appoint a Committee of Safety at the head of which was Hancock, giving this committee the power to call out the militia.

A committee was appointed to provide communication



Wright Tavern, Concord, Mass. Built 1747.

and stores, and the sum of sixty thousand dollars was appropriated for that purpose. Provisions were also made for arming the people of the province.

Henry Gardner was appointed treasurer of the colony under the title of Receiver General, into whose hands the constables and tax-collectors were directed to pay all

public moneys which they received. Jedediah Preble, Artemas Ward, and Seth Pomeroy were appointed officers of the militia; though Ward and Pomeroy alone entered upon the duty of organizing the military. Ammunition and stores were speedily collected at Concord, Woburn and other places. Mills were erected for making gunpowder; manufactories were set up for making arms, and great encouragement given for the production of saltpeter.

The provincial Congress disavowed any intention of attacking the British soldiers, and only claimed to be preparing for their own defence, yet they took measures to cut off their supplies from the country.

Governor Gage issued a proclamation denouncing their proceedings, but it did not disturb the equilibrium of the members who, under the guidance and leadership of their able president, went steadily on with their business. As the acts of the provincial Congress had all the authority of law, the Governor was unsupported save by his troops and a few officials and their friends in the city.

On the 23d of November the provincial Congress voted to enroll twelve thousand militia, to be drilled and ready at a moment's notice to take the field. These were called Minute Men.

The influence of John Hancock and Samuel Adams was felt outside of their own colony; for they extended invitations to Rhode Island and Connecticut to follow their example. The Massachusetts Provincial Congress elected delegates to the general Congress which was to

meet again in May, 1775. Two new generals were appointed for the minute men, Generals Thomas and Heath, and it then adjourned to meet early in 1775.

Gage very naturally looked upon the whole proceeding as decidedly revolutionary, and regarded Hancock and Adams as the chief instigators of the rebellion.

He prepared for extreme measures, but long months rolled by before open hostilities began. The more conservative of the patriots hoped that revolution and the consequent war which would follow, might be averted. While they began to realize the probability of a new nation, even Hancock shuddered at the thought of the long bloody war that must follow a severance from the mother country.

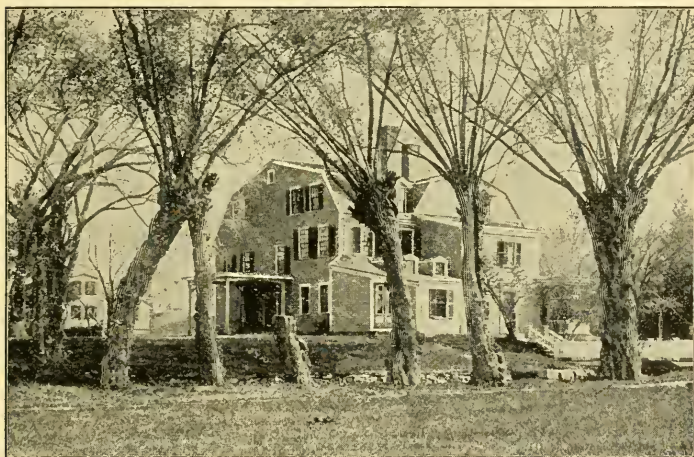
The Boston Port Bill, which was a direct blow at Hancock's commercial business, ruined it, and paralyzed every other business in which he was engaged. Yet he was of a sanguine temperament, ever cheerful, and never doubted the ultimate result of the great struggle for liberty.

If the king did not give the Americans liberty they would take it, he argued.

He was not mistaken in the men on whose valor and powers of endurance he relied. Many of them had already seen service in the long Indian wars in which they had engaged, and won honors on bloody fields. The younger men who were to fight the battles of the revolution, were sons of battle scarred veterans, and accustomed to fire-arms from early boyhood.

All that long winter during 1774 and 1775 the gun-

smiths were kept busy, turning out arms destined to do effective service. The minute men were mustered regularly for drill and discipline. Often during the winter the cowshed and even the village church became their drilling halls. The good pastors caught the fires of liberty and from their pulpits poured forth their patriotic



Old Butler House, Quincy, Mass. Home of Dorothy Quincy.

souls, making strong the weakest arm.

All Massachusetts, in fact all North America, had caught the inspiration from the little band of patriots in Massachusetts.

But there is one incident in Hancock's life which partakes of romance. In his case Cupid went hand in hand with Mars.

He was still a young man, still unmarried, but his

heart had been stirred by tenderer emotions than politics and war. The soft eyes of Dorothy Quincy, one of the fairest maids of all New England had won the affections of this stern patriot, brave soldier, orator and statesman. Even his pressing duties, the distant thunder of approaching war with all the rush of preparation did not prevent him from occasionally stealing away from the turmoil, vexation, and annoyance of public duties to spend a pleasant hour in her society.

Dorothy was as patriotic as her lover, and aided him with her valuable counsel, giving him such encouragement as only a pure, noble woman can. Being an ardent lover of liberty, her sympathies went out to the oppressed and struggling colonies.

Early in 1775 it became rumored that Governor Gage desired to get Hancock and Samuel Adams in his power, but their constant vigilance proved more than a match for his strategy.

Hancock had a host of fast friends in Boston as well as in other places in New England, who kept him posted of the governors designs, so that he continually thwarted him. Among the friends of the patriot was Paul Revere whose famous ride to Lexington has formed the theme of patriotic song and story, for more than a hundred years.

Boston was no longer safe for either Hancock or Samuel Adams, and they spent most of the late winter and early spring at Concord, or in other parts of the colony, when the Congress was not in session, encouraging the minute men, looking after supplies and arms, and pre-

paring for the final clash of arms when the time should come.

The Continental Congress had petitioned to Parliament for redress of their wrongs, but their petition was treated with contempt, and the people were left without redress.

The first effort of the military to subdue the colonists was at Salem, the object of which was to seize some old cannon at that place. The British troops arrived on Sunday when the people were at church. On learning of their approach, the congregation was dismissed, and led by Colonel Timothy Pickering, they met the Britons at the drawbridge, and the red-coats retired without a shot being exchanged.

Though this first encounter was bloodless, Hancock declared it was only the precursor of sanguinary conflicts soon to follow. The air was full of revolutionary utterances and thought, and it seemed as if the lightning of popular wrath was about to kindle a mighty conflagration.

On both sides watchful eyes never slept, and watchful ears were always open to catch any utterance that might fall from the lips of a foe. All through March and far into April, Boston was like a seething cauldron of intense feeling.

Gage, the stern soldier, who was supposed to have an iron will, proved a failure, and became irresolute and timid. Under his command were four thousand well armed, equipped and disciplined soldiers, competently officered, and yet for a long time he hesitated. He de-

pended too long on the presence of his armed hosts to overawe the colonists, who instead of being frightened grew bolder and stronger every day.

At last he determined to "nip the rebellion in the bud," by seizing Hancock and Adams and sending them to England on the charge of treason. As Hancock and Adams were still at Concord, he decided that the expedition sent to capture them would also seize the munitions of war, which he had been informed were stored at the latter place. His brilliant *coup d'etat* was to be kept a profound secret until the last moment.

The Provincial Congress at Concord adjourned April 15th, and Hancock and Adams started back to Boston. Their movements were slow and marked with extreme caution, for it had been reported that parties of troops were making incursions into the country.

Being mounted on fleet horses they had little fears of being caught in a fair chase; but as the treacherous enemy were not above kidnapping, or assassination, they had to exercise the greatest possible care.

They had almost reached Lexington when they discovered a horseman speeding toward them like the wind. They drew rein and waited for him to approach near enough to be recognized. He proved to be a friend from Boston with the information that a loyal lady in that city whose husband was a Tory had, by an intercepted letter from London, learned that Gage was determined to arrest both Hancock and Adams and send them to England for trial on charge of treason. This messenger also brought information from the same source that

troops would in a few days, perhaps a few hours, be sent to Concord to apprehend them.

On this intelligence their friends in Boston had advised all to move their plate and valuables, and the Committee of Safety had voted that all the ammunition be deposited in nine different towns.

Hancock and Adams were only a mile from Lexington when they received this alarming intelligence, and they held a brief discussion on the situation, then rode slowly to the village.

It was prudence and not cowardice which made them heed the warning. Both of these heroes had proven their courage on more than a score of occasions, when they had defied the haughty officers of a foolish king to their faces.

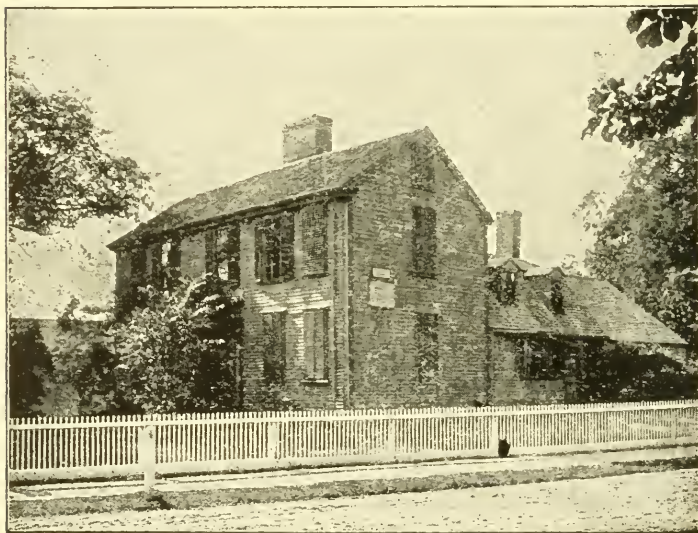
On their arrival at Lexington they found the little village, so soon to be drenched with blood, wild with excitement. Their friends gathered about them and in alarm entreated them to remain at the village, until they could learn what course of action the British Governor and his detestable soldiers intended pursuing.

Hancock was easily persuaded to remain in Lexington, not so much from any fear of the king's soldiers in Boston as a peculiarly strong attraction in the village.

When it was whispered in the ear of the gallant patriot that the fair Dorothy Quincy was a guest at the home of the Reverend Jonas Clark, the battle was won so far as detaining him was concerned.

The good pastor, Mr. Clark, invited both the statesmen to become his guests, where they were warily

welcomed and every needful precaution taken by the good people of Lexington to guard them against surprise and capture. Hancock and Adams both supposed that if Governor Gage really designed to capture them,



Hancock or Clark House, Lexington, Mass.
Residence of Rev. John Hancock for 55 years, and of Rev. Jonas Clark for 50
years. John Hancock and Samuel Adams were sleeping here
when aroused by Paul Revere.

he would only send a small company of light dragoons to accomplish the purpose.

There has been much dispute in regard to the chief design of Governor Gage in sending the troops under Smith and Pitcairn to Lexington and Concord. While many good authorities affirm his main intention was to seize the military stores at Concord, at the same time no

one doubts that he hoped to also effect the capture of Hancock and Adams. Perhaps he had both ends in view. In order to accomplish his purpose, the soldiers who were to do the work, were to leave Boston secretly in the evening, at a time that would enable them to reach Lexington at an hour past midnight, while the doomed patriots slept.

It was the design of the troops after capturing them to move rapidly on to Concord which was only six miles further, and seize or destroy the cannon and military stores which the patriots had succeeded in gathering there.

Preparations for this expedition began the very day the Provincial Congress adjourned. On that day eight hundred grenadiers and infantry were detached from the main body and marched to a different part of the town, under pretense of teaching them some new military movements. The transport boats which had been hauled up for repairs, were launched at night and moored under the stern of the man of war.

Dr. Warren, one of the most watchful of the patriots, sent notice to Hancock of these suspicious movements, who being chairman of the Committee of Safety, before leaving Concord, had caused the principal part of the stores at that village to be removed to a more secure place.

To prevent a knowledge of his intended expedition spreading into the country, Gage sent out a number of his officers to post themselves along the several roads leading to and from Boston. In order to more effectually

ally succeed and allay suspicion these officers were sent out one at a time.

The Sons of Liberty were watchful, however, and one of them discovering so many strangers on the road suspected that their design was the capture of Hancock and Adams, and hastening to Lexington informed Colonel Monroe, then sergeant of a military company. That officer, supposing the effort would be made by a small party with the intention to kidnap the two patriots, collected a guard of eight well-armed men to protect the house of Reverend Jonas Clark, on that memorable night of the eighteenth.

The interest the people took in the security and welfare of the great advocates of Liberty is indicative of the interest they had in the cause. Every man in Lexington seemed willing if necessary to shed his blood for Hancock and Adams.

The village of Lexington which, at that time, according to Mr. Bancroft, may have had seven hundred inhabitants, was in a fever of excitement, when the day closed.

Captain Parker had notified the minute men of the expected advance of the enemy, and about seventy of his company reported at roll call. They were told to hold themselves in readiness and fall in line at the first tap of the drum, and defend their liberties with their lives.

The sun set and left all quiet in Lexington, though there was a feverish state of excitement even in the silence. Men stood about in little groups with pale faces but firm lips. Occasionally there was a whispered con-

ference in the shadow of some building, or under the spreading branches of some large tree.

The wives and daughters of the patriots of the village seemed to feel that inexpressible emotion of awe which follows the sure conclusion that something terrible will happen in a short time. Mothers hurriedly put their children to bed and fell on their knees in prayer.

All felt the hour had come, when blood must be shed or the chains of slavery forever forged.

No one thought of retreat or surrender at that moment, but being children of peace, rather than discord they would have much preferred to avoid a conflict if they could without sacrifice of their liberty.

The eight minute men detailed to guard the home of Mr. Clark, in which slept Hancock and Adams, silently took their position, and an armed sentry began pacing his beat before the door.

Hancock remained up late that evening, conversing with Dorothy Quincy. Fully realizing the gravity of the situation, their conversation was more serious than usual for lovers.

Even then, unknown to him and his betrothed, a great body of men was moving with steady tread toward the village. No doubt each felt impressed that the crisis which had so long been approaching was close at hand, and they would shortly be called to face the terrible realities of war.

When they separated that night to retire, they fully understood each other. Dorothy insisted that she would accompany him and share his danger wherever he went.

As the hours went by, one by one the inmates retired and the candles were extinguished. Only the ticking of the great clock in the hall and the slow measured tread of the sentry broke the silence. Light fleecy clouds floated beneath the sky, and the moon gave fitful



Old Belfry, Lexington, Mass. Erected 1761.
In this belfry was hung the bell which rung out the alarm of the approach of the British Troops, April 19th, 1775.

gleams of light. At one moment it shed a flood of silver on the quiet village, and at the next cooly withdrew behind a cloud as if ashamed of its boldness.

The sentry with his musket on his shoulder drowsily paced his beat, occasionally halting to yawn and wish himself at home in bed.

A little past midnight the loud clatter of horse's hoofs coming down the hard beaten road from the direction of the city, fell on the ear of the drowsy sentry. He paused in his beat, started in surprise, and rubbing his eyes was half inclined to believe he was dreaming. No, there it came again nearer and more distinct, and the next moment he saw a horseman mounted on a foaming steed galloping toward the house.

"Halt!" cried the sentry. His challenge at once brought Sergeant Monroe to his side.

The horseman paid no heed to the challenge, but thundered up to the house and in a voice which betrayed deepest anxiety, asked:

"Where is Mr. Hancock?"

Sergeant Monroe, anxious that the rest of the family should not be broken, answered:

"The family have retired, and I am directed not to let them be disturbed by any noise."

"Noise!" exclaimed the horseman, who was none other than Paul Revere, "You will have noise enough before long; the regulars are coming out. I am going to knock on the door and warn Mr. Hancock before he is surrounded."

Mr. Clark, who had just retired but was not asleep, opened the door and asked:

"Who is there?"

"I want to see Mr. Hancock," Revere hurriedly answered.

Mr. Clark not being acquainted with Paul Revere, hesitated a moment and said:

"I do not like to admit strangers into my house so late at night."

Mr. Hancock, who was still awake, recognized the voice of the messenger without as his friend, and throwing open a window called out:

"Come in, Revere; we are not afraid of *you*."

Paul leaped from his jaded steed and hurried into the house, where he was almost immediately surrounded by Mr. Jonas Clark and his guests, listening with breathless eagerness to the strange wild story which the horseman had to tell. For the first time he told how he had been warned by the signal lights from the old belfry, of the advance of the British. His own thrilling adventures familiar to every school boy caused a thrill of mingled interest and alarm in his eager listeners.

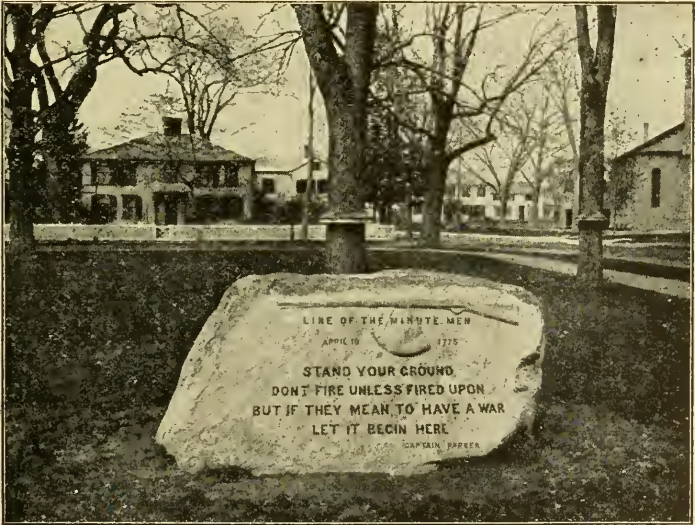
Throughout that thrilling recital, Hancock was perhaps the most cool and unconcerned, though he knew he was a special object for the Governor's wrath. A very serious question arose in the minds of all. What were the two men who were the heads of the Provincial Government to do?

The good parson at once began to urge them to retire to some place of safety, but both were opposed to such an act of cowardice. Hancock argued that their lives were no more precious than the lives of the minute men who, under the brave Captain Parker, at that moment were mustering on the green, for it was now two o'clock in the morning.

It was nearly daylight, when through the persuasion and appeals of Miss Quincy, Hancock agreed to retire

with Mr. Adams to Woburn. Dorothy Quincy accompanied her lover and his companion from Lexington.

It was already growing light in the east, when the sound of fife and drum on the distant road caused them



Line of the Minute Men, Lexington, Mass. Harrington House
in the Background.

to halt for a few moments on an eminence to give one last glance at that handful of brave men, drawn up on the green under Captain Parker, to shed their blood in the cause of freedom. How brave, how silent those martyrs stood.

Only for a moment did they gaze on them, then resumed their flight, and the hills and trees just concealed

Lexington common and the brave defenders, when those distant shots "which were heard 'round the world" broke on the shuddering air.

"Oh God! They have fired on our people!" exclaimed Dorothy.

"It is done," said Hancock calmly.

The die was cast. The war had begun, and Hancock's heart and soul was in his country's cause.

Though Hancock took no immediate part in the field, for his talents were needed in other directions, yet his heart was with the brave men who were spilling their blood for the liberties of future generations.

Boston became the chief point of military interest. The Governor had received large reinforcements from England under Generals Howe, Burgoyne and Clinton, which made Boston the first point on which the Provincial Congress recommended the council of war to concentrate their forces.

Gage proclaimed martial law throughout Massachusetts; but offered a pardon to all rebels who would return to their allegiance, with two conspicuous exceptions, John Hancock and Samuel Adams. These two exceptions were made with the discrimination that, "Their offences are of too flagitious a nature to admit of any other consideration than that of condign punishment." This virulent proscription, made after efforts to corrupt them with gold and power, though intended for their ruin, widely extended their fame.

Hancock was a member of the Continental Congress which met at Philadelphia May 10th, beyond the reach

of Governor Gage. On the 24th of that month, the chair of the president becoming vacant by the departure of Peyton Randolph, Mr. Hancock was elected by a unanimous vote to fill it.

Mr. Harrison of Virginia had all along been classed as



Monument and Concord Bridge. with Statue of Minute Man in the Background, Concord, Mass.

among the conservative members, but as he conducted Mr. Hancock to the chair, he said:

“We will now show Great Britain how much we value her proscriptions.”

Gage thought the election of Hancock to the Presidency of the Continental Congress a personal affront; but whether it was so intended or not, a more fitting

official could not have been selected. In that office he put forth some of his most valuable labors. The same dignity, clear sightedness and courage, which had characterized his career, was marked during his term as president.

But sudden honors, trying scenes, war and wrangling statesmen, did not for a moment stifle the tender flame of love in Hancock's breast. On the 28th day of August, 1775, he stole away for a day to Fairfield, Connecticut, and was married to Dorothy Quincy, who had shared his dangers in the flight on that dismal morn from Lexington.

Hancock is known mainly by his public life, but he was a kind and indulgent husband, and ever the hero of his devoted wife. He was domestic, though his public duties robbed him of much home enjoyment. But one child, a son, was born of this union, who died at an early age.

The Continental Congress soon found itself burdened with the question of a continental army. Each colony so far had been fighting the trained armies of Great Britain alone, and some sort of a united effort became a necessity.

The President of the Congress being one among the first to urge a general Congress of all the colonies, was also one among the first to urge an army. When provisions had been made for an army, then followed a discussion on the subject of a commander-in-chief.

Colonel George Washington, from Virginia, a modest, quiet, yet thoughtful man, had been a member of the Continental Congress since its first session.

On June 14th John Adams, in a brief speech, delineated the qualities which he deemed essential in the man they were to choose commander, and announced his intention to propose for that office a delegate from Virginia sitting in the house. All knew to whom Mr. Ad-



Washington Elm, Cambridge, Mass. Under this tree Washington took command of the American army.

ams referred, and on the following day, Thomas Johnson, of Maryland, nominated Colonel Washington, who was elected by acclamation.

The battle of Bunker Hill had been fought, and the colonists were already besieging Boston. Washington hastened to the beleaguered city, and under the old elm

at Cambridge, assumed command of the Continental army, while Hancock remained at Philadelphia as President of the Continental Congress.

He wrote to Washington expressing a wish to serve under him, but it was apparent to all that brave as he was, Hancock was better fitted for a statesman than soldier.

The disinterestedness of the President of the Continental Congress was never more clearly shown than during the siege of Boston. Soon after Washington assumed command of the army, the question of bombarding that city presented itself to the commander-in-chief, and he wrote to Congress in regard to the propriety of such a course. Hancock, perhaps, was more deeply interested in Boston than any other person, as nearly all his property at this time consisted of houses and real estate in the city.

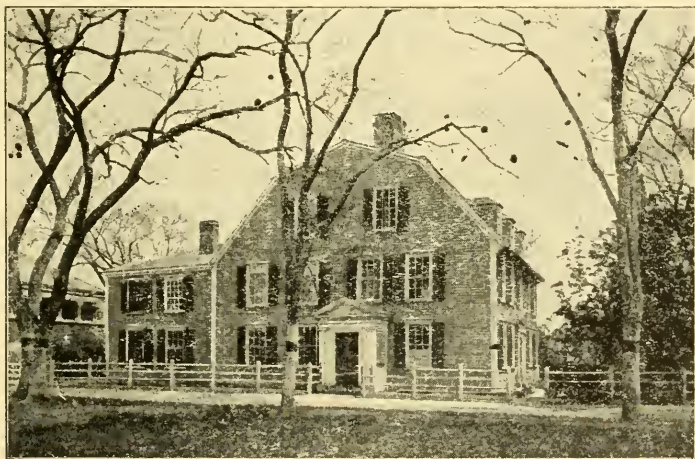
On motion Congress went into a committee of the whole to enable Mr. Hancock to express his opinion. A member was temporarily called to the chair, and the patriot took his place on the floor to address the chairman.

His speech was filled with eloquence, patriotism and self-sacrifice, concluding with the following forcible expression:

“It is true, sir, that nearly all I have in the world is in the town of Boston, but if the expulsion of the British troops and the liberty of my country demand that they be burned to ashes, issue the order, *and let the cannon blaze away!*”

In forwarding the resolve to Washington, Hancock announced it as having been adopted after a long and serious debate, and added:

“May God crown your attempt with success. I most heartily wish it, though individually I may be the greatest sufferer.”



Holmes House, Cambridge, Mass. Built 1725.

Headquarters of American officers during the Siege of Boston. The Battle of Bunker Hill was planned here. This was also the birthplace of Oliver Wendell Holmes. (Copyright, 1894, by W. A. French.)

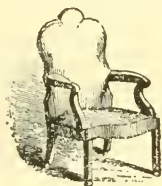
In February, 1776, Hancock, though still president of the Continental Congress, was appointed by the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts one of the Major Generals of militia of that colony.

The signing of the Declaration of Independence is an old story known to every schoolboy; but John Hancock is so closely associated with that event that to avoid a

brief mention of it would be to slight the most important part of his biography.

The average reader knows but little of this great man, save that he was first to sign the declaration, and his is the most striking and beautiful chirography of all those brave men who appended their names to the immortal document.

Hancock occupying the chair of president heard the great speeches for and against the measure, while his soul thrilled with the enthusiasm of freedom. His anxiety had reached its utmost bounds, when on the Fourth of July, 1776, the thirteen colonies by a unanimous vote declared themselves Free and Independent States.



Chair used by Hancock while President of the Continental Congress. Carpenter's Hall.

While old Liberty Bell was ringing out the glad tidings, and the assembled thousands about the State House were shouting themselves hoarse with joy, John Hancock, remembering that he had been proscribed, dipped his pen in the ink, and affixing that immortal signature to the document which made his country free, exclaimed:

“There! John Bull can read that without spectacles. Now let him double his reward.”

The heroism that inspired Luther to go to Worms “though a devil sat on every housetop,” inspired the heart of the patriot to act with a boldness that stunned the old world. To free his country was his life work, and he did it with a stroke of his pen.

On the day of its adoption, the Declaration of Independence was signed by John Hancock and the Secretary only, and thus it went forth to the world. It was several months before all the names which now appear to the document, were appended.

Hancock's wisdom and sagacity during his term as president, while it at times brought down the censure of some of his friends at home, no doubt saved the States from internecine quarrels that might have cost them their independence.

Some of the injudicious New Englanders desired with the Declaration of Independence, to precipitate the emancipation of slavery. The President of the Continental Congress knew full well that such a measure was unwise, as it would divide the states at a time when they most needed the united strength of the whole country. So bitter was the feeling engendered against Hancock by some of the narrow men of the North, that when Congress came to tender a vote of thanks for his services, some of the northernmost States voted in the negative, while the South gave him a solid vote, and were always his best friends.

"It is unwise, it is foolish to engage in internal quarrels when we have a common cause at stake!" Hancock declared when rebuked by some of his New England friends for the course he had taken on the slavery question. Yet that course made him many enemies among the opponents of slavery, who had done their share to dim the lustre of the hero's glory.

The remainder of his career as President of the Con-

tinental Congress is marked by no conspicuous act. It was a continuous struggle to supply the new army, and more than the ordinary wrangling of legislative bodies ensued.

The ambition of the President of the Continental Congress was to serve his country in the field rather than in Congress. Besides his health became impaired. The British had been driven out of Boston, and he was anxious to visit his home and look after his shattered fortune, which had suffered from English depredations during the siege; so he left Congress in 1777, and went to Boston.

As a presiding officer, Mr. Hancock was dignified, impartial, quick of apprehension and always commanded the respect of the bodies over which he presided.

In 1778 having somewhat regained his health, he assumed actual command over a part of the Massachusetts militia. The chief military service of General Hancock was in Rhode Island.

The British occupied Newport, and the Americans determined to dislodge or capture them. By this time France had espoused the cause of America, and Count D'Estaing with the French fleet appeared off the harbor of Newport, July 29, 1778.

The land forces under Generals Sullivan and Lafayette were reinforced by five thousand militia from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. General Hancock was in command of the Massachusetts troops.

So great was the enthusiasm engendered by the presence of the French squadron, that thousands of volun-

teers, "gentlemen and others," from Boston, Salem, Newburyport and Portsmouth engaged in the service. Two brigades of Continental infantry, under Lafayette, were sent from the main army; and the whole force ten thousand strong was arranged in two divisions under Lafayette and Greene.

Just as the land and water forces were about to commence the attack, Admiral Howe with a fleet appeared off Newport harbor to protect the British, and D'Estaing weighed anchor and started to engage the British war vessels in battle. While the two squadrons were maneuvering for the "weather gage," which is



General Lafayette.

essential in a naval conflict with sailing vessels, they were struck with a violent gale which scattered the vessels, and some of the ships of both fleets sustained severe damage. The storm on land was as severe as on water, and the tents of the Americans were blown down, and much of their powder and provisions ruined by the rain which fell in torrents.

Hancock's *marquee* was blown down several times in succession, and that officer was compelled to stand in the rain for several hours. Several soldiers died from exposure and a number of their horses perished during the night.

Count D'Estaing after a slight engagement with the

enemy put into the harbor, and although the Americans had suffered exceedingly from the storm, they were full of enthusiasm and anxious to make the attack. Their surprise and chagrin can be better imagined than described on being informed that though Count D'Estaing was in favor of engaging the enemy at once, his officers had by a council of war decided on returning to Boston for repairs.

Hancock and Sullivan sent letters to the Count remonstrating with him, but without avail, for the French fleet weighed anchor and sailed for Boston. The departure of the French squadron and the rain so discouraged many of the volunteers that about three thousand of them quit the army and returned to their homes.

Thus the American force was reduced to less than the British, who were strongly fortified and provided with shelter, against the inclement weather. Under such circumstances, an assault upon the British lines was deemed hazardous, and a retreat thought prudent.

Lafayette was despatched to Boston, to solicit the return of D'Estaing to Newport, but he could only get a promise from that officer to march his troops by land to aid the Americans in the siege, if requested. Having been promoted from the land service, D'Estaing no doubt felt more at home on *terra firma* than on water. But it was too late for such a movement to be effective.

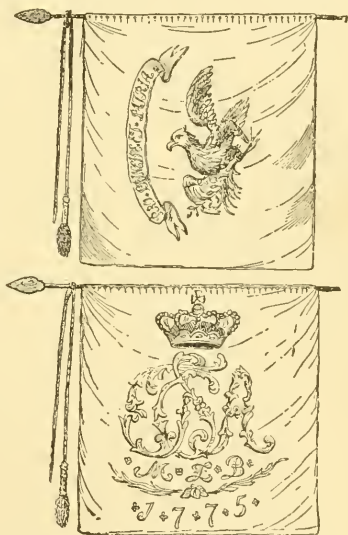
On the night of the 28th the Americans commenced a retreat with great order and secrecy, and arrived at the high grounds of the island with all their artillery and stores, at three in the morning. Their retreat hav-

ing been discovered by the enemy, a pursuit was commenced. The Americans had fortified an eminence called Butts Hill, about twelve miles from Newport. Here they made a stand, and at daylight held a council of war. General Greene proposed to march back and meet the enemy on the west road, then approaching in detachments, and consisting only of the Hessian chasseurs and two of Ainspach regiments under Lossberg.

On the east road was General Smith, with two regiments and two flanking companies. To the former were opposed the light troops of Lieutenant Colonel Laurens, and to the latter those of Colonel Henry B. Livingston.

Greene's advice was overruled, and the enemy were allowed to collect

in force upon the two eminences called respectively Quaker and Turkey Hill. A large detachment of the enemy marched very near to the American left, but were repulsed by Glover, and driven back to Quaker Hill. About nine o'clock the British opened a severe cannonade upon the Americans from the two hills, which was returned from Butts Hill with spirit.



View of the Two Sides of a Hessian Flag.

Skirmishes continued between advanced parties until near ten, when two British sloops of war and other armed vessels, having gained the right flank of the Americans, opened a plunging fire simultaneously with a furious attack by the land forces of the enemy. This attempt to gain the rear of the Americans, and cut off a retreat, brought on an almost general action, in which from twelve to fifteen hundred of the patriots were engaged at one time. The enemy's line was finally broken, after a severe engagement, in attempts to take the redoubt on the American right, and they were driven back in great confusion to Turkey Hill, leaving many of their dead and wounded on the low grounds between the contending armies, where the battle raged hottest.

This was between two and three o'clock in the afternoon of a very sultry day, and a number on both sides perished from the effects of heat and fatigue. A cannonade was kept up by both parties until sunset, when the battle ceased. The skirmishing and more general action continued seven hours without intermission, and the most indomitable courage was evinced in both armies.

The American loss was thirty killed, one hundred and thirty-two wounded, and forty-four missing. The British loss in killed, wounded and missing was two hundred and twenty-two.

This was the greatest military expedition in which Hancock was actively engaged. Though he possessed some military qualifications, he was more of a statesman than soldier. He was brave, in fact, too brave; but after

all, courage is perhaps among the least qualifications of a general. Hancock's courage partook of rashness.

In 1780, Hancock was a member of the convention for the forming a constitution for the State of Massachusetts, and was chosen the first governor; to which office, with an interval of two years he was annually re-elected until his death. His strong common sense, great decision of character, polished manners, affability, and charity made him exceeding popular.

Yet he had his enemies in his day, and has them yet. It would be impossible for one with Hancock's remarkable force of character to achieve the greatness he did without making enemies. Even Mr. Bancroft calls him "vain and neglectful of public business," yet his patriotism, honesty and integrity could hardly be questioned even by his enemies.

Perhaps he was guilty of the sin of neglect in some matters, but when we consider the magnitude and diversity of his business and official duties, we need not be surprised if some portions of them should suffer from inattention. The Tory element, a trace of which can still be found in some portions of the eastern states, has always hated Hancock and taken measures to malign him as well as all other heroes of the Revolution.

Hancock was Governor of Massachusetts during the exciting period of the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and its final ratification by the several States; and his wisdom and firmness proved of great value in restraining the lawless acts of those disaffected spirits toward the general Government. John Hancock acted

in many other official capacities, and always with vigor and decision of character.

In society he was dignified and a great stickler for correct etiquette and form.

In 1790 President George Washington visited Massachusetts. Before the President's arrival, Governor Hancock sent him an invitation "to lodge at his house" in Boston. The invitation was declined.

After the arrival of Washington, the Governor sent him an invitation to dine with him and his family, informally, that day, at the conclusion of the public reception ceremonies.

It was accepted by Washington with the understanding that the Governor would call upon him before the dinner hour. But "Hancock had conceived the proud notion that the Governor of a State within his own domain was officially superior to the President of the United States, when he came into it."

"He had laid his plans," says Mr. Lossing, "for asserting this superiority by having Washington visit him first, and to this end he sent him an invitation to lodge and dine with him."

Whether Governor Hancock had such designs on President Washington or not is a question still in doubt. He was noted for his hospitality, and determined that the President should not leave without partaking of it.

As the dinner hour drew near and President Washington came not, Hancock sent his Secretary to him with the statement that he was too ill to call upon his Excellency in person.

Washington determined that his high official position should be recognized, so he refused to go, but dined at his lodgings at the home of Mrs. Ingersoll.

That evening Governor Hancock sent his Lieutenant and two of his council to express his regret that his illness would not permit him to call on the President. Washington informed them that he would see the Governor only at his lodgings, and the next day Hancock called on the President and ended this tilt of official formality and etiquette.

As years passed on Hancock assumed the appearance of advanced age, no doubt caused by ill health. One who knew him in 1782 says:

“He had been repeatedly and severely afflicted with gout, probably owing in part to the custom of drinking punch—a common practice in high circles in those days. As recollected at that time, Hancock was nearly six feet in height and of thin person, stooping a little, and apparently enfeebled by disease. His manners were very gracious, of the old style, a dignified complaisance. His face had been very handsome.

“Dress at this time was adopted quite as much to the ornamental as the useful. Gentlemen wore wigs when abroad, and commonly caps when at home. At this time, about noon, Hancock was dressed in a red velvet cap, within which was one of fine linen. The latter was turned up over the lower edge of the velvet one, two or three inches. He wore a blue damask gown lined with silk, a white satin embroidered waist coat, black satin small clothes, white silk stockings and red

morocco slippers. It was a general practice in genteel families to have a tankard of punch made in the morning and placed in a cooler when the season required it. At this visit, Hancock took from the cooler standing on the hearth a full tankard, and drank first himself, and then offered it to those present."

Side lights into the social circles of great men, perhaps go as far toward an insight to their characters as anything.

There has been left us an account of Governor Hancock at a banquet at which fifty or sixty sat at the table. The Governor did not sit at the table himself, a custom which in any other would have been branded as selfish. Governor Hancock's social manners were peculiar, and tended to increase the criticism heaped upon him. The following is an account of the way in which he entertained his guests:

"He ate at a little side table, and sat on a wheeled chair, in which he wheeled himself about to the general table to speak with his guests. This was because of his gout, of which he made a political as well as social excuse for doing as he pleased.

"On this occasion when the guests were in the height of an animated conversation, and just as the cloth was withdrawn, they were interrupted by a tremendous crash. A servant in removing a cutglass epergne, which formed the central ornament of the table, let it fall, and it was dashed into a thousand pieces. An awkward silence fell upon the company, who hardly knew how to treat the accident, when Hancock relieved their embar-

rassment by cheerfully exclaiming: 'James, break as many as you like, but don't make such a confounded noise about it!'

"And under cover of the laugh this excited, the fragments were removed and the talk went on as if nothing had happened. This, evidently, was the presence of mind of true good breeding.

"His apparel was sumptuously embroidered with gold, silver, lace and other decorations, fashionable among men of fortune of that period. He wore a scarlet coat with ruffles on his sleeves, which soon became the prevailing fashion."

Governor Hancock seems to have been a sort of Beau Brummel of Massachusetts, who led and moulded the fashions of the commonwealth. There is an anecdote told of Dr. Nathan Jacques, the famous pedestrian of West Newbury, walking all the way from that place to Boston in one day, to procure cloth for a coat like that of John Hancock, and "returned on foot with it under his arm."

John Hancock died October 8, 1793, almost fifty-six years of age. Though he was human, and possessed some of the traits in common with the time which he would have been better off without, we have in biography few greater political heroes.

His wealth and position in politics, very naturally begat enemies, who have sought to present only the worst side of his character; yet to his efforts and courage we owe in part the prosperity and happiness of our great country.

JOHN HANCOCK.

[1737—1793.]

BY G. MERCER ADAM.*

OF the orator-patriots of the Revolutionary era, John Hancock, who lived between the years 1737 and 1793, was one of the most prominent. His signature, as every schoolboy knows, was the first, as it is the most bold, of those ardent men, styled rebels, to be attached to the Declaration of Independence. He signed the immortal document at first alone, as President of the Continental Congress, and one of the most influential men of his time who took active part in the memorable annals of his fateful era. Born to wealth and influence, his support was early secured for American liberty, and his espousal of the popular side, in the conflict of the American Colonies with the motherland, was a happy incident in the story of the time, and not without effect on the fortunes of the pre-Revolutionary cause. Among the heralds of and actors in the struggle of the Colonies with the Crown, Hancock came prominently into note at the time when Grenville's Stamp Tax was imposed upon the American people. Just before this he had heard and applauded James Otis's stirring speech against the obnoxious Writs of Assistance, which gave legal authority to custom-house officers to enter business premises, and even private dwellings, in search of smuggled goods. Han-

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cock was himself a suspect in this act of outlawry, and was charged with other evasions of the law in connection with his large shipping interests, which suffered from the burdensome taxation imposed by the Crown on the Colonies and their trade at this era. Against this tyrannous imposition of British taxation the young merchant-patriot took and maintained a hostile and unwavering attitude, which led to his election to the Provincial Legislature of Massachusetts, and his public encouragement of legal resistance to the imposition and enforcement of the British Acts so bitterly complained of in the Colonies, the immediate issue of which was the Boston Massacre of 1770. Though taking this position against the arbitrary measures of the motherland, Hancock was at this time no brawling revolutionist: on the contrary, he was more than usually conservative, and deprecated strongly mob violence and all unconstitutional and irritating methods of opposition to British injustice and tyranny. When the latter became so oppressive as not to be borne, he took a decided stand on the popular side, and was most influential in urging opposition to Britain, foreseeing that only revolution was likely to effect what remonstrance had failed to accomplish. When the British authorities called the King's troops to their aid in executing the obnoxious laws, Hancock naturally took firm ground in insisting on their recall, in spite of the efforts of the Crown's representatives in the Colony to placate and even to bribe him. Soon now all hope of conciliation passed, and in town-meeting Hancock joined his voice, with that of other patriots of the period, in impressing Governor Hutchinson with a sense of the gravity of the situation, and assuring him

of what would certainly happen if he refused the urgent summons of the citizens to remove the troops and prevent bloodshed. The personal interest, as a great merchant and shipper, he had in the maintenance of peace was such that he honestly sought to restrain the arm of the law at this period in Boston; but if the appeals for peace were to be set at naught and the temper of the people was to be defied, Hancock would throw his interests, great as they were, to the winds rather than see his country's liberties trampled upon and a great wrong done to the Colony. This was precisely what happened, and the popular cause, as it progressed, gained in him a stout champion and a valiant and uncompromising defender.

But before proceeding with an account of his career, let us first see who John Hancock was, and under what circumstances he came to be enrolled in the patriot band that was to stand staunchly for the maintenance of Colonial rights against the arbitrary acts of the Crown, put in force by the obsequious Grenville and Rockingham ministries. John Hancock came of an influential New England family, of commercial antecedents, his immediate fortune coming to him from a wealthy uncle, who took a deep interest in the future patriot, had him educated at Harvard, appointed him clerk in his counting-room, and in 1760 sent him on a business mission to England, where he not only had admission to good society in London, but was enabled to be present at the funeral obsequies of King George II and at the coronation of his successor, who was so soon to become a thorn in the flesh to the people of the American Colonies. Shortly after his return from England, death deprived young Han-

cock of his uncle-guardian and put him in possession of his handsome fortune, with the proprietary interests in his ships and trading vessels and other large business connections. The patriot youth, then early in his career, became an object of public attention; and his sphere of action rapidly widened when he began to display those gifts as a speaker and orator for which he became noted, aided by the social influence he possessed as a man of large means, an hospitable entertainer, and a munificent donor to the deserving philanthropies of his time. In many other respects besides his wealth he was admirably fitted for high public positions, for he spoke with ease and effect, and was capable of presiding with distinction over deliberative bodies. He had, moreover, many graces of manner, was exceedingly lovable in disposition, and was attractive to all, especially to those who, like himself, espoused the popular cause and took a statesmanlike view of the relations of the Colonies with the motherland. Ere long we find him looked up to in his elevated station as a patriot, formed by education and by nature to act a brilliant part in the then theatre of affairs, and inviting the regard as well as the respect of his fellow-citizens, who presently heaped honor upon him and made him the idol of the community.

The unpopularity of the Crown and the Crown officers in the Colonies at this period was actively increasing, and this was specially manifested just then in public resistance to the imperious attitude of Britain, in the issue and enforcement of the Writs of Assistance and the oppressive Stamp Act, both of which struck at the roots of American liberties. The rigid execution of the Acts of Trade on the part

of the English ministry, which particularly affected Hancock's shipping and mercantile interests, together with English schemes of control and taxation of the Colonies, and the garrisoning of English troops in Massachusetts, to be maintained at the expense of the Colony, were objects that, in a vehemently patriotic degree, excited the young statesman's ire and bitter denunciation. As, moreover, they led to infractions of the law and to more or less illegal trade, Hancock was the more angry at their imposition, even to the extent of implicating himself as a rebel in the eyes of the Crown officers, as well as an infractionist of the reprobated laws, so long as they were in force. From this more or less passive attitude of protest and defiance the Colonies proceeded to angry and hostile excesses, and to collisions with the troops, in their coercive measures against the community, which precipitated events, such as the attack and sacking of Lt.-Governor Hutchinson's house and the destruction of the offices of the obnoxious Stamp distributors, the boarding and burning of English vessels in port, the throwing overboard of the taxed tea in Boston harbor, and the collision with the English soldiery on the night of March 5, 1770, popularly styled "the Boston Massacre." In inflaming the heart of the people and rousing them to engage in these acts of reprisal and hostility, when toleration of the political situation had ceased to be a virtue, Hancock had had some share; and for this he was specially held responsible, since by this time, as we have indicated, he was a member of the Provincial Legislature, and a violent haranguer against English oppression and the exercise of unconstitutional and arbitrary power. The immediate result of these acts in the

New England capital and of the temper of the people now roused to active resistance, was a temporary reaction in England, incited at the same time by the English Commoner, Pitt's, urgent warning of the trouble certain to ensue in the Colonies if the unrestrained authority of the Crown was wantonly to be exercised over them. This was shown by the repeal of the Stamp Act, which was hailed with delight in the Colonies and eagerly rejoiced over by Hancock, together with the Sons of Liberty and other patriots throughout Massachusetts. But the Colonial rejoicings were only temporary, for on the heels of the withdrawal of the hated measure came new oppression in the shape of the Dependancy Act, declaring the Colonies to be subordinate still to the will and authority of the Crown and Parliament of Britain, and subject to the control and the exercise of their authority in the matter of taxation and the maintenance and support of English troops in America. This new and irritating action on the part of the mother country naturally increased the soreness of feeling in America, which was far from being allayed when a subsequent English administration imposed various small customs' duties on American imports, such as glass, paper, painters' colors, and tea. In retaliation, the Colonists especially determined not to use the latter article; while, generally, the spirit of resistance took now a determined and refractory turn, expressed by the act, which occurred, as related, in Boston harbor, in boarding and destroying from the three ships at that port of 342 chests of taxed tea. The deadlock that ensued was a grave one, for, on the one hand, the king and his ministers stubbornly insisted on England's right to derive some

benefit from her Colonies; while, on the other hand, the Colonists as stubbornly held to the principle of no taxation without representation, and upheld the rights of their own Assemblies. In assuming this attitude, it ought to be said, that Massachusetts was not now the only Colony that protested against English oppression and coercion. By this time, thanks to the appeals of the Adams cousins, John and Samuel, James Otis, and other patriots, Massachusetts had enlisted the coöperation of several of the sister Colonies, by means of a Committee of Correspondence, and some of them, such as New York and Virginia (the latter inspired by the eloquence of Patrick Henry) had responded, and actively taken part in resisting England's acts of intimidation and coercion, and thus paved the way for the later Revolutionary rising. In these defiances, the port of Boston was particularly to feel the odium of British displeasure, for after the destruction of the cargoes of tea in her harbor all commerce with the New England capital was prohibited; while her recalcitrant citizens were made liable to arrest for treason and subject to be transportated to England for trial. The city was also to be punished by having increased bodies of English troops quartered upon her, and the setting up in her midst of a terrorizing military government. The looked-for result followed, in street riotings and other acts of insubordination and violence on the part of the Bostonians, together with collisions with the soldiery, and strained relations between the chief citizens and the local representatives of the Crown. The latter strained feeling was specially increased when the Assembly petitioned the Crown for the removal of the Lieutenant-Governor (Hutchinson), at

the same time bitterly resenting the accounts he had sent home of the attitude taken by the more prominent lovers of liberty in the Colony and deprecating his unrealized efforts to suppress the meetings of the Legislature. The breach widened when General Gage appeared on the scene to fulfill his duties as Provincial Governor, and in doing so resorted to coercive measures and other acts, legal and illegal; meanwhile declaring Massachusetts in a state of rebellion, and thus paralyzing the machinery of government in the Colony. Estrangement increased when, at the institution of Samuel Adams, a Continental Congress was summoned, which should act as the mouthpiece of the various Colonies and manifest its sympathy with New England resistance. This Congress met at Philadelphia in 1774, and again in 1775, and gave expression to the united grievances of the Colonies and unmistakably showed a hostile attitude to the Crown and a spirit of resentment, provoked by the many acts of aggression on the part of the British authorities. Nor was the state of feeling improved when Massachusetts, at the meeting of the Provincial Congress at Salem, and subsequently at Concord, concluded to raise a military force, consisting of 12,000 militia, which should represent the popular cause and protect its members from arrest by General Gage. Of this Congress John Hancock was not only a member, but its president, and, with Samuel Adams, was one of the patriots whom Gage desired to get hold of and send to England for trial as a rebel and traitor.

It was at this time when Hancock, by his acts as presiding officer of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, was marked out for punishment by General Gage, that the pa-

triot was informed at Lexington of the acting-governor's design to capture him and take possession of the military material which the Colonists had gathered and stored for the use of the Provincial forces in case of need. With that precaution which the circumstances warranted, a guard of minute-men had been detailed by the Committee of Safety to act as sentrymen over the house of the Rev. Jonas Clark, whose guests Hancock and Samuel Adams were during their stay in Lexington. Here, on the 19th of April (1775), after a visit in the village to his betrothed, Dorothy Quincy, of Fairfield, Conn., whom later in the year Hancock married, the Clark household was awakened by the horseman, Paul Revere, who had arrived during the night to apprise Hancock and Adams of their intended capture by the English troops sent out by General Gage. The historic incidents now transpired, of the rousing of the Clark household and their guests, and of the colloquy that ensued between Hancock and Revere—a colloquy that ended by the retirement of Adams and Hancock, with the latter's lover, to Woburn, and the preparations of Captain Parker and his small force, of a hundred militiamen, to meet the English troops on the village green at Lexington. Now came the crisis in the affairs of the Colonies, for Parker and his men, when the troops came up, refused to disperse, and were in consequence fired upon by the British. This act set fire to the mine of the Colonial cause, followed as it was, not only by the skirmish that ensued at Lexington, but by the battle, a few months later, at Bunker Hill (June 17), where the American militia were repulsed in the fight, though at serious loss to the English. Marshal law had

meanwhile been proclaimed by Gage, though with it an offer of pardon was extended, to return to their allegiance to the Crown, to all in rebellion, save Hancock and Samuel Adams, whose offences were deemed too flagitious to entitle them to English clemency. Disregarding this evidence of the governor's implacability, these patriots continued in their adherence to the cause of Liberty, and presently put in appearance at Philadelphia at the Continental Congress, when Gage professed to be specially annoyed by the election of John Hancock as president of the body. The Congress, speedily engrossing itself in the preparations for the coming strife with the mother country, completed its provision for the raising and equipping of a Continental army by appointing as commander-in-chief thereto General George Washington of Virginia. Thus matters seriously began to shape themselves for the coming fray; and, in taking part in these grim preliminaries of revolution, Hancock gave further and practical evidence of the patriot he was, and showed to what extent he was further willing to go in aiding the cause which he had so heartily and self-sacrificingly made his own.

By this time, the cause Massachusetts had been fighting for against English intimidation and tyranny had been actively joined in by the other New World Colonies, from New Hampshire to Georgia, the patriots seizing the reins of power in each Colony and driving the royal governors out of office. The revolutionary movement created union, and with union came Independence and the Declaration or assertion of the fact, attested by Hancock as president of the Continental Congress, in a signature so bold and explicit

that all who ran might read. The several Colonies had first assumed the dignity of independent states under their own Colonial legislatures, but cordially sending representatives to the two Continental Congresses, and looking to those bodies for the measures to be patriotically taken to resist English aggression and put the country in a state of effective defence. Later on, when the several petitions and addresses to the throne and people of Britain came to naught, they agreed, in concerted fashion, to clothe themselves with national powers, under a coherent and united government, and collectively to take the field against the common foe. The final step in the direction of independence of the English Crown and the throwing over of English control was taken in May, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress declared, by vote of its members at Philadelphia, that "every kind of authority under the Crown of Great Britain should be totally suppressed." This was followed by resolutions, passed throughout the Colonies, by public meetings, conventions, and legislatures, in favor of independence, and by the formal and solemn adoption of the great charter penned by Jefferson, which at the same time set forth the grievances under which the Colonies suffered, together with the assertion of their rights and the grounds which justified separation.

Meanwhile, the Colonies had had several collisions with English troops, and in spite of the failure of a military expedition to Canada had been able, late in the year 1776, to win the victories of Princeton and Trenton, and, in the following summer, to force Burgoyne to surrender his whole army at Saratoga. On the sea, the struggle was also car-

ried on with vigor; and in spite of England's formidable navy which blockaded several of the chief seaports, the Colonies were able to thwart England's power by the ravages of privateers and by the irritating capture of British supplies at sea and the destruction of not a little of British commerce. On the field of strife, as well as on that of politics, Hancock was anxious to bear his part, and in 1778 he saw service in Rhode Island in command of a portion of the Massachusetts militia. This was the period when France had made a treaty of alliance with the New World nation and had sent her fleet to American waters to aid America in her struggle with the mother country. This fleet, under Count D'Estaing, sought to aid the Continental forces in an attack upon Lord Howe's British squadron off the harbor of Newport, R. I.; but the issue was unsuccessful, owing to a gale that had sprung up, and D'Estaing, against the protest of Hancock and other patriot commanders, set sail for Boston, leaving the American land forces to meet the British in an engagement at Turkey Hill. The fight entailed severe loss on both the English and the American forces engaged.

Hancock, who had resigned his seat in the Continental Congress to take command in the Massachusetts militia, now returned to political life and took part in 1780 as a member of convention in formulating a constitution for the State of Massachusetts, and later on became its first governor. This office he held continuously until 1785, and with the interval between 1785 and 1787 until the close of his life. Meanwhile, the Revolutionary War had been fought to a finish, the English arms meeting its crowning disaster

in 1781 at Yorktown, Va., where Lord Cornwallis, being surrounded in the peninsula by the forces under Washington and Lafayette, was forced to capitulate with his army and bring the war to an inglorious close for the motherland. Two years afterwards, by the Peace of Versailles (1783), Britain recognized the independence of the United States, and the young nation, with new hope, set out on its beneficent, triumphal career. The era was at first fraught with danger, for the finances of the new confederation were in bad shape, the currency was debased, and the national debt was grievously large. Difficulties also arose from the disbandment of the army, and from the territorial claims of the only partially organized Western States; while trouble came of the attempt of some of the Northern States to deal thus early with the slavery question and the attempted issue of emancipation edicts. Nor were the foreign relations of the confederation without perplexity; while commerce had to adjust itself to new conditions before setting out on its career of expansion. Divisions among the several States of the New Republic also showed their power in exciting discussion over the provisions of the Federal Constitution, and ratification was a matter, for a time, not only of delay, but of bitter contention. / In Massachusetts, particularly, there were divergent opinions as to the nature of the compact as an instrument of government, and the discordant views of its public men, at a grave juncture, were such that the State's consent to its ratification was in doubt. At first, Adams and Hancock were among the dissidents; but on their carrying certain amendments, which were incorporated into the Constitution, these fellow patriots withdrew their

opposition and finally succeeded in securing its adoption. This was one of the last acts John Hancock took public part in; for, though only fifty years old at this period, his health was indifferent and his weakened frame began to show the advance of old age. For five years further, he however continued to fill the high office of governor of his native State, dying ultimately at Braintree (Quincy), Mass., October 8th, 1793, with the regret and personal regard of all. Deep and profound was the impression made on his time by this patriotic, pre-Revolutionary statesman, whose loyalty to his country and many sacrifices in the cause of Liberty and Independence have earned for him and his memory an honored name. His career was not fearless, nor was his life altogether without blemish or blame. But he was sturdily honest and splendidly patriotic, and had no regret whatever when events in the relations of the Colonies with England menaced his interests, or when the rôle of a patriot compromised him gravely with the British Crown or brought him into trouble with its local representatives in the Colony.

Impelled by the benevolent instincts of his kindly nature, Hancock, who had no surviving children, left the bulk of his fortune to public charities. In the year before his death, his own university, Harvard, granted him the honorary degree of doctor of laws, an honor which had been paid him also by other eminent educational institutions. At his death, his own city, Boston, with which he had been so long and honorably associated, paid high honor to his remains and granted to its chief officer in the chair of the governor imposing funeral obsequies.

THE BOSTON MASSACRE (1770).

(Address of John Hancock, delivered in 1774, in the Old South Church, Boston.)

Men, Brethren, Fathers, and Fellow-Countrymen: The attentive gravity, the venerable appearance of this crowded audience; the dignity which I behold in the countenances of so many in this vast assembly; the solemnity of the occasion on which we have met together, joined to a consideration of the part I am to take in the important business of this day, fill me with an awe hitherto unknown, and heighten the sense which I have ever had of my unworthiness to fill this desk. But, allured by the call of some of my respected fellow-citizens, with whose request it is always my greatest pleasure to comply, I almost forgot my want of ability to perform what they required. In this situation, I find my only support in assuring myself that a generous people will not severely censure what they know was well intended, though its want of merit should prevent their being able to applaud it. And I pray that my sincere attachment to the interest of my country, and the hearty detestation of every design formed against her liberties, may be admitted as some apology for my appearance in this place.

I have always, from my earliest youth, rejoiced in the felicity of my fellow-men; and have ever considered it as the indispensable duty of every member of society to promote, as far as in him lies, the prosperity of every individual, but more especially of the community to which he belongs; and also as a faithful subject of the State, to use his utmost endeavors to detect, and having detected, strenuously to oppose every traitorous plot which its enemies may devise for its destruction. Security to the persons and properties of

the governed is so obviously the design and end of civil government, that to attempt a logical proof of it, would be like burning tapers at noonday to assist the sun in enlightening the world; and it cannot be either virtuous or honorable to attempt to support a government of which this is not the great and principal basis; and it is to the last degree vicious and infamous to attempt to support a government which manifestly tends to render the persons and properties of the governed insecure. Some boast of being friends to government; I am a friend to righteous government, to a government founded upon the principles of reason and justice; but I glory in publicly avowing my eternal enmity to tyranny. Is the present system, which the British administration have adopted for the government of the Colonies, a righteous government, or is it tyranny? Here suffer me to ask (and would to Heaven there could be an answer) what tenderness, what regard, respect, or consideration has Great Britain shown, in the late transactions of her ministry, for the security of the persons or properties of the inhabitants of the Colonies? Or rather what have they omitted doing to destroy that security? They have declared that they have ever had, and of right ought ever to have, full power to make laws of sufficient validity to bind the Colonies in all cases whatever. They have exercised this pretended right by imposing a tax on us without our consent; and lest we should show some reluctance at parting with our property, England's fleets and armies are sent to enforce their mad pretensions. The town of Boston, ever faithful to the British Crown, has been invested by a British fleet: the troops of George III. have crossed the wide

Atlantic, not to engage an enemy, but to assist a band of traitors in trampling on the rights and liberties of his most loyal subjects in America—those rights and liberties which, as a father, he ought ever to regard, and as a King, he is bound, in honor, to defend from violation, even at the risk of his own life.

Let not the history of the illustrious house of Brunswick inform posterity, that a King, descended from that glorious monarch, George II., once sent his British subjects to conquer and enslave his subjects in America. But be perpetual infamy entailed upon that villian (Lord Bute) who dared to advise his master to such execrable measures; for it was easy to foresee the consequences which so naturally followed upon sending troops to America, to enforce obedience to acts of the British Parliament, which neither God nor man ever empowered them to make. It was reasonable to expect that troops, who knew the errand they were sent upon, would treat the people whom they were to subjugate with a cruelty and haughtiness which too often buries the honorable character of a soldier in the disgraceful name of an unfeeling ruffian. The troops, upon their first arrival, took possession of our senate-house (Fanueil Hall) and pointed their cannon against the judgment-hall, and even continued them there whilst the supreme court of judicature for this province was actually sitting there to decide upon the lives and fortunes of the King's subjects. Our streets nightly resounded with the noise of riot and debauchery, our peaceful citizens were hourly exposed to shameful insults, and often felt the effects of their violence and outrage. But this was not all: as though they thought it not enough to violate

our civil rights, they endeavored to deprive us of the enjoyment of our religious privileges; to vitiate our morals, and thereby render us worthy of destruction. Hence the rude din of arms which broke in upon your solemn devotions in your temples, on that day hallowed by Heaven, and set apart by God himself for His peculiar worship. Hence, impious oaths and blasphemies so often tortured your unaccustomed ears. Hence, all the arts which idleness and luxury could invent were used to betray our youth of one sex into extravagance and effeminacy, and of the other, to infamy and ruin, and did they not succeed but too well? Did not a reverence for religion sensibly decay? Did not our infants almost learn to lisp out curses before they knew their horrid import? Did not our youth forget they were Americans, and regardless of the admonitions of the wise and aged servilely copy from their tyrants those vices which finally must overthrow the empire of Great Britain? And must I be compelled to acknowledge that even the noblest, fairest part of all the lower creation did not entirely escape the cursed snare? When virtue has once erected her throne in the female breast, it is upon so solid a basis that nothing is able to expel the heavenly inhabitant. But have there not been some, few indeed, I hope, whose youth and inexperience have rendered them a prey to wretches whom, upon the least reflection, they would have despised and hated as foes to God and their country? I fear there have been some such unhappy instances, or why have I seen an honest father clothed with shame; or why a virtuous mother drowned in tears?

But I forbear, and come reluctantly to that dismal night (March 5, 1770) when in such quick succession we felt the extremes of grief, astonishment, and rage; when Heaven in anger, for a dreadful moment, suffered hell to take the reins; when Satan with his chosen band opened the sluices of New England's blood, and sacrilegiously polluted our land with the dead bodies of her guiltless sons! Let this sad tale of death never be told without a tear; let not the heaving bosom cease to burn with manly indignation at the barbarous story, through the long tracts of future time: let every parent tell the shameful story to his listening children until tears of pity glisten in their eyes, and boiling passions shake their tender frames; and whilst the anniversary of that ill-fated night is kept a jubilee in the grim courts of pandemonium, let all America join in one common prayer to Heaven, that the inhuman, unprovoked murders of the fifth of March, 1770, planned by Secretary Hillsborough and a knot of treacherous knaves in Boston, and executed by the cruel hand of Preston and his sanguinary coadjutors, may ever stand on history without a parallel. But what, my countrymen, withheld the ready arm of vengeance from executing instant justice on the vile assassins? Perhaps you feared promiscuous carnage might ensue, and that the innocent might share the fate of those who had performed the infernal deed? But were not all guilty? Were you not too tender of the lives of those who came to fix a yoke on your necks? But I must not too severely blame a fault which great souls only can commit. May that magnificence of spirit which scorns the low pursuits of malice, may that generous compassion which often preserves from ruin,

even a guilty villain, forever actuate the noble bosoms of Americans! But let not the miscreant host vainly imagine that we feared their arms. No; them we despised; we dread nothing but slavery. Death is the creature of a poltroon's brains; 'tis immortality to sacrifice ourselves for the salvation of our country. We fear not death. That gloomy night, the pale-faced moon, and the affrighted stars that hurried through the sky, can witness that we fear not death. Our hearts which, at the recollection, glow with rage that four revolving years have scarcely taught us to restrain, can witness that we fear not death; and happy it is for those who dared to insult us, that their naked bodies are not now piled up, an everlasting monument to Massachusetts' bravery. But they retired, they fled, and in that flight they found their only safety. We then expected that the hand of public justice would soon inflict that punishment upon the murderers, which by the laws of God and man they had incurred. But let the unbiased pen of the historian Robertson, or perhaps of some equally famed American, conduct this trial before the great tribunal of succeeding generations. And though the murderers may escape the just resentment of an outraged people; though drowsy justice, intoxicated by the poisonous draught prepared for her cup still nods upon her rotten seat, yet be assured such complicated crimes will meet their due reward. Tell me, ye bloody butchers! ye villains high and low! ye wretches who contrived, as well as you who executed the inhuman deed! do you not feel the goads and stings of conscious guilt pierce through your savage bosoms? Though some of you may think yourselves exalted to a height that bids defiance to human justice; and

others shroud yourselves beneath the mask of hypocrisy, and build your hopes of safety on the low arts of cunning, chicanery, and falsehood; yet do you not sometimes feel the gnawings of that worm which never dies? Do not the injured shades of Maverick, Gray, Caldwell, Attucks, and Carr attend you in your solitary walks; arrest you even in the midst of your debaucheries, and fill even your dreams with terror? But if the unappeased spirits of the dead should disturb not their murderers, yet surely even your obdurate hearts must shrink, and your guilty blood must chill within your rigid veins, when you behold the miserable Monk, the wretched victim of your savage cruelty. Observe his tottering knees, which scarce sustain his wasted body; look on his haggard eyes; mark well the death-like paleness on his fallen cheek, and, tell me, does not the sight plant daggers in your souls? Unhappy Monk! Cut off, in the gay morn of manhood, from all the joys which sweeten life, doomed to drag on a pitiful existence, without even a hope to taste the pleasures of returning health! Yet, Monk, thou livest not in vain; thou livest a warning to thy country, which sympathizes with thee in thy sufferings; thou livest an affecting, an alarming instance of the unbounded violence which lust of power, assisted by a standing army, can lead a traitor to commit.

For us he bled and now languishes. The wounds, by which he is tortured to a lingering death, were aimed at our country! Surely the meek-eyed Charity can never behold such sufferings with indifference. Nor can her lenient hand forbear to pour oil and wine into these wounds, and to assuage, at least, what it can never heal.

Patriotism is ever united with humanity and compassion. This noble affection, which impels us to sacrifice everything dear, even life itself, to our country, involves in it a common sympathy and tenderness for every citizen, and must ever have a particular feeling for one who suffers in a public cause. Thoroughly persuaded of this, I need not add a word to engage your compassion and bounty toward a fellow-citizen who, with long-protracted anguish, falls a victim to the relentless rage of our common enemies.

Ye dark, designing knaves, ye murderers, parricides! how dare you tread upon the earth which has drank in the blood of slaughtered innocents, shed by your wicked hands? How dare you breathe that air which wafted to the ear of Heaven the groans of those who fell a sacrifice to your accursed ambition? But if the laboring earth doth not expand her jaws; if the air you breathe is not commissioned to be the minister of death; yet, hear it and tremble! The eye of Heaven penetrates the darkest chambers of the soul, traces the leading clue through all the labyrinths which your industrious folly has devised; and you, however you may have screened yourselves from human eyes, must be arraigned, must lift your hands, red with the blood of those whose death you have procured, at the tremendous bar of God!

But I gladly quit the gloomy theme of death, and leave you to improve the thought of that important day when our naked souls must stand before that Being from whom nothing can be hid. I would not dwell too long upon the horrid effects which have already followed from quartering regular troops in this town. Let our misfortunes teach posterity to guard against such evils for the future. Standing

armies are sometimes (I would by no means say generally, much less universally) composed of persons who have rendered themselves unfit to live in civil society; who have no other motives of conduct than those which a desire of the present gratification of their passions suggests; who have no property in any country; men who have given up their own liberties, and envy those who enjoy liberty; who are equally indifferent to the glory of a George or a Louis; who, for the addition of one penny a day to their wages, would desert from the Christian cross and fight under the crescent of the Turkish sultan. From such men as these, what has not a State to fear? With such as these, usurping Cæsar passed the Rubicon; with such as these, he humbled mighty Rome, and forced the mistress of the world to own a master in a traitor. These are the men whom sceptred robbers now employ to frustrate the designs of God, and render vain the bounties which his gracious hand pours indiscriminately upon his creatures. By these, the miserable slaves of Turkey, Persia, and many other extensive countries are rendered truly wretched, though their air is salubrious and their soil luxuriously fertile. By these, France and Spain, though blessed by nature with all that administers to the convenience of life, have been reduced to that contemptible state in which they now appear; and by these, Britain,—but if I were possessed of the gift of prophecy, I dare not, except by divine command, unfold the leaves on which the destiny of that once powerful kingdom is inscribed.

But since standing armies are so hurtful to a State, perhaps my countrymen may demand some substitute, some other means of rendering us secure against the incursions

of a foreign enemy. But can you be one moment at a loss? Will not a well-disciplined militia afford you ample security against foreign foes? We want not courage; it is discipline alone in which we are exceeded by the most formidable troops that ever trod the earth. Surely our hearts flutter no more at the sound of war than did those of the immortal band of Persia, the Macedonian phalanx, the invincible Roman legions, the Turkish janissaries, the *gensd'armes* of France, or the well-known grenadiers of Britain. A well-disciplined militia is a safe, an honorable guard to a community like this, whose inhabitants are by nature brave, and are laudably tenacious of that freedom in which they were born. From a well-regulated militia we have nothing to fear; their interest is the same with that of the State. When a country is invaded, the militia are ready to appear in its defense; they march into the field with that fortitude which a consciousness of the justice of their cause inspires; they do not jeopard their lives for a master who considers them only as the instruments of his ambition, and whom they regard only as the daily dispenser of the scanty pittance of bread and water. No! they fight for their houses, their lands, for their wives, their children; for all who claim the tenderest names and are held dearest in their hearts; they fight for their altars and their friends, for their liberty and for themselves, and for their God. And let it not offend if I say that no militia ever appeared in more flourishing condition than that of this province now doth; and pardon me if I say, of this town in particular. I mean not to boast; I would not excite envy, but manly emulation. We have all one common cause; let it, therefore, be our only con-

test, who shall most contribute to the security of the liberties of America. And may the same kind Providence which has watched over this country from her infant state still enable us to defeat our enemies. I cannot here forbear noticing the signal manner in which the designs of those who wish not well to us have been discovered. The dark deeds of a treacherous cabal have been brought to public view. You now know the serpents who, whilst cherished in your bosoms, were darting their envenomed stings into the vitals of the Constitution. But the representatives of the people have fixed a mark on these ungrateful monsters, which, though it may not make them so secure as Cain of old, yet renders them at least as infamous. Indeed, it would be affrontive to the tutelary diety of this country even to despair of saving it from all the snares which human policy can lay.

True it is, that the British ministry have annexed a salary to the office of the governor of this province, to be paid out of a revenue raised in America, without our consent. They have attempted to render our courts of justice the instruments of extending the authority of acts of the British Parliament over this Colony, by making the judges dependent on the British administration for their support. But this people will never be enslaved with their eyes open. The moment they knew that the governor was not such a governor as the charter of the province points out, he lost his power of hurting them. They were alarmed; they suspected him—have guarded against him, and he has found that a wise and a brave people, when they know their danger, are fruitful in expedients to escape it.

The courts of judicature, also, so far lost their dignity, by being supposed to be under an undue influence, that our representatives thought it absolutely necessary to resolve that they were bound to declare, that they would not receive any other salary besides that which the general court should grant them; and if they did not make this declaration, that it would be the duty of the House to impeach them.

Great expectations were also formed from the artful scheme of allowing the East India Company to export tea to America upon their own account. This certainly, had it succeeded, would have effected the purpose of the contrivers, and gratified the most sanguine wishes of our adversaries. We soon should have found our trade in the hands of foreigners, and taxes imposed on everything we consumed; nor would it have been strange, if, in a few years, a company in London should have purchased an exclusive right of trading to America. But their plot was soon discovered. The people soon were aware of the poison which, with so much craft and subtlety, had been concealed. Loss and disgrace ensued; and perhaps this long-concerted masterpiece of policy may issue in the total disuse of tea in this country, which will eventually be the saving of the lives and the estates of thousands. Yet, while we rejoice that the adversary has not hitherto prevailed against us, let us by no means put off the harness. Restless malice and disappointed ambition will still suggest new measures to our inveterate enemies. Therefore, let us also be ready to take the field whenever danger calls; let us be united and strengthen the hands of each other by promoting a general union among us. Much has been done by the committees of correspondence, for this

and the other towns of this province, toward uniting the inhabitants; let them still go on and prosper. Much has been done by the committees of correspondence for the Houses of Assembly, in this and our sister Colonies, for uniting the inhabitants of the whole continent, for the security of their common interest. May success ever attend their generous endeavors. But permit me here to suggest a general congress of deputies, from the several Houses of Assembly on the American continent, as the most effectual method of establishing such a union as the present posture of our affairs requires. At such a congress, a firm foundation may be laid for the security of our rights and liberties; a system may be formed for our common safety, by a strict adherence to which we shall be able to frustrate any attempt to overthrow our constitution; restore peace and harmony to America, and secure honor and wealth to Great Britain, even against the inclinations of her ministers, whose duty it is to study her welfare; and we shall also free ourselves from those unmannerly pillagers who impudently tell us, that they are licensed by an act of the British Parliament to thrust their dirty hands into the pockets of every American. But I trust the happy time will come, when, with the besom of destruction, those noxious vermin will be swept forever from the streets of Boston.

Surely you never will tamely suffer this country to be a den of thieves. Remember, my friends, from whom you sprang. Let not a meanness of spirit, unknown to those whom you boast of as your fathers, excite a thought to the dishonor of your mothers. I conjure you, by all that is dear, by all that is honorable, by all that is sacred, not only

that ye pray, but that ye act; that, if necessary, ye fight, and even die, for the prosperity of our Jerusalem. Break in sunder, with noble disdain, the bonds with which the Philistines have bound you. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed, by the soft arts of luxury and effeminacy, into the pit digged for your destruction. Despise the glare of wealth. That people who pay greater respect to a wealthy villain than to an honest, upright man in poverty almost deserve to be enslaved; they plainly show that wealth, however it may be acquired, is, in their esteem, to be preferred to virtue.

But I thank God that America abounds in men who are superior to all temptation, whom nothing can divert from a steady pursuit of the interest of their country, who are at once its ornament and its safeguard. And sure I am, I should not incur your displeasure, if I paid a respect, so justly due to their much honored characters, in this place. But when I name an Adams, such a numerous host of fellow-patriots rush upon my mind that I fear it would take up too much of your time should I attempt to call over the illustrious roll. But your grateful hearts will point you to the men; and their revered names, in all succeeding times, shall grace the annals of America. From them let us, my friends, take example; from them let us catch the divine enthusiasm; and feel, each for himself, the godlike pleasure of diffusing happiness on all around us; of delivering the oppressed from the iron grasp of tyranny; of changing the hoarse complaints and bitter moans of wretched slaves into those cheerful songs which freedom and contentment must inspire. There is a heartfelt satisfaction in reflecting on our exertions for the public weal, which all the sufferings

an enraged tyrant can inflict will never take away; which the ingratitude and reproaches of those whom we have saved from ruin, cannot rob us of. The virtuous asserter of the rights of mankind merits a reward, which even a want of success in his endeavors to save his country, the heaviest misfortune which can befall a genuine patriot, cannot entirely prevent him from receiving.

I have the most animating confidence that the present noble struggle for liberty will terminate gloriously for America. And let us pray the man for our God, and for the cities of our God; whilst we are using the means in our power, let us humbly commit our righteous cause to the great Lord of the universe, who loveth righteousness and hateth iniquity. And having secured the approbation of our hearts, by a faithful and unwearied discharge of our duty to our country, let us joyfully leave our concerns in the hands of Him who raiseth up and pulleth down the empires and kingdoms of the world as He pleases; and with cheerful submission to His sovereign will, devoutly say, "Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the field shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet we will rejoice in the Lord, we will joy in the God of our salvation."

HANCOCK AS THE STRENUOUS MERCHANT.

After the death of his uncle in 1764, Mr. Hancock immediately proceeded to push the large business already established in oil, whalebone, coal and potash. He also continued to supply the British garrisons in Nova Scotia, which, in itself, was a contract of magnitude. In fact, the only real rivals of Mr. Hancock in New England, at this time, appear to be the Rotch family, different members of which settled at Nantucket and New Bedford and, despite Mr. Hancock's best efforts, insisted upon a goodly share of the oil trade which centered there. Shortly before the uncle's death, the Hancock firm thus write to their London agents, noting the departure of a rival schooner: "The schooner from Nantucket, sailing to your place with oyle was very unlucky, more especially as it fetched so great a price, as it may be the means of their continuing that method, beside keeping up the price of oyle here. Capt. Folger did all he could to prevent her sailing, but they were determined upon it."

A little later, in fact only a month before Thomas Hancock's death, the firm sent the following suggestive order to Messrs. Barnard and Harrison, then their London agents: "Please to send by the Boston Packett a covering for a Bed, to be had at Mr. Fisher's, the Eiderdown Warehouse in Litchfield street, Oxford market. Pray be very particular in the choice of a good one, as it is for our T. H.'s own use, in the Gout, about Nine or Ten Guineas' value. It is called an Eider Down Quilt or Covering. If the brig goes to New Castle pray order us from thence Ten Groce of best Quart

Champagne Bottles for own use, to be well packed in Baskets."

A few weeks from the date of this order John Hancock's uncle (the T. H. mentioned) was attacked with apoplexy while attending a session of his Majesty's council, of which he was a member, and expired August 1. A large share of his fortune of £70,000 went to John Hancock, placing him, for those days, in affluent circumstances. He immediately notified his agents in Great Britain and Nova Scotia of the fact and bid them keep a sharp lookout on the market, especially warning Messrs. Barnard and Harrison about giving away any of his plans to the rival oil merchants in London.

A subsequent letter throws so many side lights on the business; on John Hancock, the insistent business man, who does not intend that his correspondents shall neglect his interests, and on the business vernacular of these days (especially in the way of impersonating ships as the modern engineer does his engine) that it is here given: "Since my last I am favored with yours and Capts. Diney, Bruce and Marshall. The latter arrived yesterday. Bruce got here four days before Marshall. Yours by the Boston Packett.

"Inclos'd Invo. & Bill of Lading of the Goods on board him; but was greatly disappointed in not having all the things wrote for, particularly the Lemons & oyl, which would come to a very good Market. I beg you would at all times be careful to send all my goods at the first opp'y, as it makes a great odds in the sale.

"You also neglected the Eiderdown Quilt & many other things which if you do not send by Scott will be a great dis-

appointment to me. I am also at a loss to account why my Hemp & Beer & many other things should be omitted in my own ship & others have the preference, which is certainly now the case, and I must insist upon it that in future none of my goods be turned aside for any others whatever, for the disappointment to me is greater than if even I was obliged to pay a double freight; but perhaps you may have reasons for this, but to me it appears pretty extraordinary.

"The dispatch you gave to the ships is very agreeable. You may depend she will be immediately returned to you with a good Cargo of Oyl.

"I am with perfect Esteem,

"Gent'n Your Most Obed't Servant."

But Hancock's greatest concern, as heretofore intimated, was to stir up his London agents on the "oyl market" and he never loses an opportunity to tell them of some other shipper who has disposed of his cargo to better advantage than he. In one of his letters of this period he mentions that his friend John Rowe, who shipped some oil at the same time as his last lot, secured far better figures. Mr. Rowe was subsequently a prominent patriot and co-worker with John Hancock. It is stated that it was this John Rowe who was proposed as a candidate for the General Court and whom the astute Samuel Adams overlooked as he gazed toward the Hancock mansion with the suggestive words, "Is there not another John that may do better?" They were, however, both elected, although the more opulent John became the special protege of the Father of the Revolution.

It should also be stated, in drawing this general picture of John Hancock's widely extended business just prior to his

entrance into revolutionary politics, that he had coal yards and large general stores for the sale of the articles which he imported in his fleet of ships. For example he advertises, under date of December 25, 1764: "Store No. 4, at the east end of Feneuil Hall Market, a general assortment of English and India Goods. Also choice Newcastle coals and Irish Butter, cheap for Cash.

"Said Hancock desires those persons who are still indebted to the estate of the late Hon. Thomas Hancock, Esq., deceased, to be speedy in paying their respective balances to prevent trouble."

John Rowe, the friend and co-patriot already mentioned, was also proprietor of a general store for the sale of his imported goods. One of his advertisements runs as follows: "Just imported and to be sold by John Rowe at his store, a few likely negro boys and two negro men, between 20 and 30 years of age. Also New Castle Coals, Lisbon Salt, Fyal Wine, Quart bottles by the groce, Hemp, Russia and Ravens Duck, etc."

Mr. Hancock does not appear to have dealt in slaves, although in one of his letters he thanks his London agents for their trouble in sending him a man servant. "The man appears to be a Sober man," he says, "and the articles very agreeable—particularly my Silk Cloths. A choice of my own could not have pleased me better. You omitted six pair black Silk Hose which would be glad you would send me."

Mr. Hancock's greatly extended business soon became a source of apparent concern. The revenue laws passed by the Mother Country were already having their effects and several large failures occurred among the Boston merchants

in 1764 and 1765. There is little doubt but that William Rotch, the Quaker merchant prince of Nantucket, interfered with the profits of his oil trade and the two made an attempt to combine their forces and corner the market. But by the time they were about ready to form the combine the Stamp Act had passed and business was almost at a stand-still.

HANCOCK AND THE STAMP ACT.

Intermixed now with his complaints of the arrival of damaged lemons and bad home markets for salad oils and Newcastle coals, are impatient remarks about the treatment of American merchants. "I hear," he writes, "the Stamp Act is like to take place. It is very cruel. We were before much burthened. We shall not be able much longer to support trade and in the end Great Britain must feel the ill effects of it. I wonder the merchants and friends to America don't make some stir for us."

As the evil import of the Stamp Act became more and more apparent, Mr. Hancock endeavors to use his London agents as messengers to convey to the British trade his sentiments on the subject and the ever increasing bitterness of public opinion. In August, 1765, he writes as follows: "I refer you to the Newspapers for an account of the proceed'gs here by which you will see the General Dissatisfaction here on account of the Stamp Act, which I pray may never be carried into Execution. It is a Cruel hardship upon us & unless we are Redressed we must be Ruin'd. Our Stamp Officer has resigned. I hope the same Spirit will prevail throughout the whole Continent. Do Exert yourselves for us and promote our Interest with the Body of Merchants. The fatal Effects of these Grievances you will

very Sensibly feel; our Trade must decay & indeed already is very indifferent. I cant therefore but hope that we shall be considered, & that some will rise up to exert themselves for us. We are worth saving, but unless speedily reliev'd we shall be past remedy. Do think of us."

It is worthy of note that John Hancock's ship "Liberty," which he had just built for the Carolina trade, but finally decided to load for London, should be the bearer of this message. [This was the same "Liberty" that three years later brought the Madeira wine upon which Hancock refused to pay duty and which proved to be the beginning of the real Revolution.]

A month later (September 30, 1765) he notifies his agents that Capt. Hulme (the ship) has arrived "with the most disagreeable Commodity (Stamps) that were ever imported into this country and what if carry'd into Execution will entirely Stagnate Trade, for it is universally determined here never to submit to it, and the principal merchants here will by no means carry on Business under a Stamp. We are in the utmost Confusion here and shall be more so after the first of November & nothing but the repeal of the act will righten. The Consequence of its taking place here will be bad & attended with many troubles & I believe may say more fatal to you than us. For God's Sake use your Interest to relieve us. I dread the Event."

Mr. Hancock had already been elected a selectman, succeeding his deceased and lamented uncle, who had held that position for many years. While he was writing these letters of appeal and warning to his London correspondents he was also taking such a leading part in the town meetings at

Faneuil Hall as was bringing him into prominent notice. He was appointed one of a committee to bear instructions to the General Court or Assembly and upon the death of a representative (Oxenbridge Thatcher), at this time, he received several votes for the position. His older and more experienced friend, Samuel Adams, was, however, elected.

As Hancock feared, indignant unrest gave place to violence, at first chiefly directed against the Stamp Officer. In October he writes to London that he has finally dispatched a new brig "Harrison" from Nantucket. He conveys the cheerful assurance to his agents that if the Stamp Act be not repealed they "may bid Adieu to Remittances for the past Goods and Trade in future. Your debts cannot be Recover'd here for we shall have no Courts of Justice after the 1st Novr. & I now Tell you, and you will find it come to pass that the people of this Country will never Suffer themselves to be made slaves of by a Submission to that D——d act."

He goes on to say that if his two ships (Marshall and Scott) arrive before November 1 he will clear them out again, but, if after that date, he will haul them up rather than pay a stamp duty to get them out of port. "I would sooner subject myself to the hardest Labour for a maintenance than carry on the Business I now do under so great a Burthen & I am determin'd as soon as I know that they are Resolv'd to insist on this act to Sell my Stock in Trade & Shut up my Warehouse Doors. Thus much I told our Govr. the other day & is what I am absolutely Determined to abide by, without some very extraordy intervention indeed, wch is not likely.

“We are a people worth saving & our trade so much to your advantage worth Keeping, that it merits the notice of those on yr side who have the Conduct of it; but to find nothing urg’d by the merchts on your side in our favour Really is extraordinary. What I have mentioned seems at present to be the opinion of all here & indeed must unavoidably be the Case if they don’t submit to this Cruel act, wch I now tell you the whole Continent is so Rous’d that they will never suffer any one to Distribute the Stamps—a Thousand Guineas, nay a much Larger sum, would be no Temptation to me to be the first that should apply for a Stamp; for such is the aversion of the people to the Stamps that I should be sure to Lose my property if not my Life. Trade must of course stagnate and indeed all kinds of Business and Navigation must cease unless some Expedient be thought on, wch I Can’t See can Take place so as to Remove the Difficulty.

“Thus much I thought to mention to you to let you see some of the ill Consequences of this act, and they are what will greatly affect Great Britain in the End; and Trade once lost is not easily Retriev’d. You will not mention my name particularly in these matters. I write thus much & pray you will use your Influence for us to Extricate us out of our present State.”

In this, as in other letters prior to the repeal of the act, Hancock notifies his agents that they need expect no orders for spring goods. He, in common with his fellow merchants, had agreed to this course of action. The stamps had come, but they were not distributed, and, in view of the public sentiment then prevailing, it would have been a very hardy

merchant indeed who would have offered to use them after November 1. Hancock voiced the common opinion of the patriots in his letters to London, when he pronounced the act an unconstitutional grievous burden and which, as an Englishman entitled to the rights of the English constitution, he refused to accept. He would sooner be a pauper than submit to injustice and be a slave. He did not fail to repeatedly remind his friends across the water that the crippling of American trade would also be a severe injury to England.

It is probable that John Hancock accomplished more toward the actual repeal of the stamp act by this continual hammering away at the large London merchants through his Boston agents than if he had been able to compose such masterly papers as came from Samuel Adams and were pigeon-holed before they reached His Royal Highness or his ministers.

After the Stamp Officer in Boston had taken an oath that he would never directly or indirectly attempt to perform the duties of his office and it had become evident that the Stamp Act would be inoperative, Hancock, in common with the other merchants, appears to have become more hopeful over the situation. Conditional orders for spring goods were dispatched to London—the sole condition for filling them being, of course, the repeal of the stamp act.

Although that great event in colonial life occurred March 18, 1766, news of the repeal was not received in Boston until April 30 and a copy of the act did not reach the city until the arrival of Hancock's brig, the "Harrison," on May 16.

ROYAL SENTIMENTS IN VERSE.

Elsewhere is given a brief account of the public celebration on the common and the supposed healing of the dissensions between the royalists and the patriots—now considered one and inseparable. A magnificent pyramid or obelisk had been erected by the Sons of Liberty and upon its four sides the prevailing public sentiments had been engraved by Mr. Paul Revere. On two sides were impassioned invocations to the Goddess of Liberty, with a graceful reference to "Britain's guardian Pitt" and "the foes of Britain only are our foes;" on the third side was a significant reference to "foul oppression's transient reign," but the fourth side pronounced the reunion complete in the following verse:

"Our faith approv'd, our Liberty restor'd,
 Our hearts bend gratefully to our sov'r'gn Lord;
 Hail, darling Monarch! by this act endear'd,
 Our firm affections are thy best reward.
 She'd Britain's self against herself divide,
 And hostile armies frown on either side—
 Sh'd hosts rebellious, shake our Brunswick's throne,
 And as they dar'd thy parent, dare the son,
 To this asylum stretch thine happy wing,
 And we'll contend, who best shall love our King."

DENIES TRYING TO CONTRACT FOR BRITISH TROOPS.

While the town of Boston was in a great state of excitement over the coming of General Gage's troops and their quartering in Feneuil Hall, the charge was made by the Tory element that Hancock was endeavoring to secure the contract for supplying these unwelcome visitors with provisions. As he had for a number of years supplied the Nova Scotia garrisons, on the face of it the charge had certainly an air

of plausibility. But the following letter written to a Boston paper put a quietus to the slander :

“I observe in your last paper a piece signed Veritas, writer of which says he had it from good authority that a letter under my hand was published in a coffee-house at New York, requesting His Excellency Gen. Gage that I might supply the troops then expected, and which have arrived in this town. If such a letter has been produced there, or anywhere else, I declare it to be a forgery ; for I have never made application to any for the supply of said troops, nor did I ever desire any person to do it for me. The person who produced the letter could have no other design but to injure my reputation and abuse the gentlemen of New York. I therefore desire you would give this a place in your next, in which you will oblige

Your Humble Servant,

JOHN HANCOCK.

BOSTON, Nov. 12, 1768.

HANCOCK'S ACCOUNT OF THE TEA MANEUVER.

John Hancock's business-like account of the throwing of the tea into Boston harbor is as follows. He is writing to his London agents, Dec. 21, 1773 :

“We have been much agitated in consequence of the arrival of the Tea Ships by the East India Comp., and after every effort was made to induce the consignees to return it from whence it came. All proving ineffectual, in a very few Hours the whole of the Tea on board Bruce, Coffin and Hall was thrown into the salt water. The particulars I must refer you to Capt. Scott for ; indeed, I am not acquainted

with them myself, so as to give a Detail. Capt. Loring in a Brig with the remainder of the Tea is cast on shore at the back of Cape Codd. Philadelphia and York are Determined the Tea shall not land. I enclose you an extract of a letter I Recd from Phila., by which you will see the spirit of that people. No one circumstance could possibly have taken place more effectively to unite the Colonies than this manouvre of the Tea. It is Universally Resented here & people of all ranks detest the measure."

In explanation of the letter which Hancock had received from Philadelphia, it should be stated that Wm. Palfrey, his friend and confidential business agent, had been promptly despatched to New York and Philadelphia with the Tea news. The three ships which brought the tea into Boston harbor were owned principally by William Rotch, although it is believed that Mr. Hancock himself had an interest in at least two of them; and it is characteristic of the earnestness of the man, that despite the fact that, from a worldly point of view, none of the Revolutionary patriots staked more or suffered more than he, none were more enthusiastic over such acts as the manouvre of the Tea, although they meant a further sacrifice of a business already well nigh ruined.

A NEW PICTURE OF THE TEA MANEUVER.

There have been many accounts of the historic act put on paper, but none which is more graphic than the homely narrative of John Andrews, one of Hancock's friends and an eye-witness.

"The house (the Old South Meeting House) was so crowded," he says, "I could get no further than ye porch,

when I found the moderator was just declaring the meeting to be dissolv'd, which caused another general shout, out doors and in, and three cheers. What with that and the consequent noise of breaking up of the meeting, you'd thought that the inhabitants of the infernal regions had broke loose. For my part I went contentedly home and finish'd my tea, but was soon informed what was going forward; but still not crediting it without ocular demonstration, I went and was satisfied.

“They mustered, I'm told, upon Fort Hill to the number of about two hundred and proceeded, two by two, to Griffin's wharf, where Hall, Bruce and Coffin lay, each with 114 chests of the ill fated article on board; the two former with only that article, but ye latter arriv'd at ye wharf only ye day before, was freighted with a large quantity of other goods, which they took the greatest care not to injure in the least; and before nine o'clock in ye evening every chest from on board the three vessels was knocked to pieces and flung over ye sides.

“They say the actors were Indians from Narragansett. Whether they were or not, to a transient observer they appear'd as such, being clothed in Blankets with the heads muffled and copper color'd countenances, being each arm'd with a hatchet or axe and pair pistols; nor was their dialect different from what I conceived these genuises to speak, as their Jargon was unintelligible to all but themselves.

“Not the least insult was offered to any persons, save one Captain Conner, a letter of horses in this place, not many years since remov'd from dear Ireland, who had ript up the lining of his coat and waist coat under the arms, and watch-

ing his opportunity had nearly fill'd 'em with tea, but being detected was handled pretty roughly. They not only stripp'd him of his clothes, but gave him a coat of mud, with a severe bruising into the bargain; and nothing but their utter aversion to make any disturbance prevented his being tar'd and feather'd."

COLONEL HANCOCK AND HIS CADETS.

When General Gage, the newly appointed Governor, arrived at Boston, May 19, 1774, Colonel Hancock and his company of Cadets were delegated to escort him to the State House. There, after he had been formally proclaimed Governor, a bountiful feast was spread. Then the General and Governor informed those assembled that he was but a servant of the Crown and however unwelcome he or his mission the royal acts must be enforced. To all of which John Hancock and his Cadets, and other patriots who were present, listened with respectful attention, and left to await developments.

Said developments were not long in coming—the proroguing of the General Court to Salem by Governor Gage and the calling of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia by the patriots. In August also the Governor notified the Board of Selectmen that "he had received from England the two Acts of Parliament lately passed in which was inserted a clause forbidding the calling of town-meetings without special license from the Governor." He further notified Colonel Hancock that he had no further occasion for his services as commander of the Cadets. Doubtless the Governor saw the danger of allowing one who had become so prominent as John Hancock in civil affairs of a semi-revolu-

tionary nature to remain connected with a provincial military organization.

The Cadets promptly disbanded and returned the standard which was a gift from His Excellency. They sent a warm message of regret to Colonel Hancock, who, in the course of his reply said: "I am ever ready to appear in a public station, when the honor or the interest of the community calls me; but shall always prefer retirement in a private station to being a tool in the hand of power to oppress my countrymen."

AS AN ANXIOUS HUSBAND AND FATHER.

Hancock's first child, a daughter who died in early infancy, was named Lydia Henchman, after his favorite aunt, who accomplished so much for him in the winning of Dorothy Quincy. Their second child, born in 1778, was John George Washington Hancock. He, also, was drowned in boyhood while skating. A few days before the battle of Monmouth Mr. Hancock wrote a letter to his wife from Yorktown wishing her a favorable recovery from her late confinement, bidding her particularly to send news as to the exact state of little John and to have the nurse take the best care of him.

It would seem that after nearly three years of married life Dorothy was as unsatisfactory a correspondent as ever, and, under the circumstances, the impatience, even severity, of the anxious husband and father is justifiable:

"Although I wrote you Two Letters the Day before yesterday, & this is my Seventh Letter, & not one word have I heard from you since your departure from Boston. I am as well as the peculiar scituation of this place will admit, but I can by no means in Justice to myself continue long under

such disagreeable Circumstances—I mean in point of Living—the mode is so very different from what I have been always accustom'd to, that to continue it long would prejudice my health exceedingly. This moment the Post arriv'd, and to my very great Surprise & Disappointment not a single line from Boston. I am not much dispos'd to Resent, but it feels exceedingly hard to be slighted and neglect'd by those whom I have a degree of Right to expect different Conduct. I would have hir'd any one to have sent a few Lines just to let me know the state of your health, but must Endeavor not to be so Anxious & be as easy as some others seem to be. I will expect no letters nor write any, & then there will be no Disappointment. So much for that. To be serious, I shall write no more till I hear from you. This is agreeable to my former promise. It really is not kind, when you must be sensible that I must have been very anxious about you & the little one. Devote a little time to write me. It will please me much to hear of you. I am sure you are dispos'd to oblige me, & I pray I may not be disappointed in my opinion of your Disposition."

MASTER HOLBROOK'S LAME FOOT AIDS HANCOCK.

As president of the Second Provincial Congress in February, 1775, John Hancock put the motion that "the secretary be directed to write Colonel Roberson desiring him to deliver the four brass field pieces and the two brass mortars now in his hands, the property of the Province, to the order of the Committee of Safety." Without putting the motion to any deliberative body Governor Gage had ordered his officers to get the same ordnance well in hand for the British troops.

When they went for the guns, however, they found only the carriages, the business parts having disappeared.

There was no evidence of the guns having been taken through the main gateway of the building in which they were stored, and as the only other possible mode of exit was through the schoolhouse, with which said building was connected, the evidence pointed in that direction. To the schoolhouse, therefore, the officers went but found nothing—only a roomful of demure rustic pupils and Master Holbrook with his lame leg placed for greater ease upon a large box. A thorough search of everything but the box revealed nothing. Master Holbrook's game foot had carried the day and John Hancock's motion was carried into effect.

It was thus that the two cannon, the Hancock and the Adams, were used with goodly effect throughout the Revolution and subsequently by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Boston. The Adams was finally burst in firing a patriotic salute. They are now peacefully planted on top of Bunker Hill Monument, accompanied by the following:

The Hancock:

Sacred to Liberty.

This is one of four cannon which constituted the whole train of Field Artillery possessed by the British Colonies of North America at the commencement of the war on the 19th of April, 1775.

This Cannon

and its fellow, belonging to a number of citizens of Boston, were used in many engagements during the war. The other two, the property of the Government of Massachusetts, were taken by the enemy.

MORE OF HANCOCK'S LOVE AFFAIR.

John Hancock's Aunt Lydia was a designing woman and one of her plans was to marry her dear sweet young friend,

Miss Dorothy Quincy, to her very favorite nephew, the president of the Provincial Congress and chairman of the Committee of Safety. She and Miss Quincy were frequent guests at the parsonage of Rev. Jonas Clark, at Lexington, and at the home of Thaddeus Burr, of Fairfield, Conn. Another not infrequent guest at the latter place was Mr. Burr's talented and intensely fascinating young nephew Aaron. To meet the fair Miss Dorothy was to become interested in her and, as Propinquity is said to be the Mother of Love, to be thrown into close contact with her was to become far more than interested in her. But in this instance Aunt Lydia had appointed herself chairwoman of the Committee of Safety in the love affairs of John Hancock.

After having come to a preliminary understanding with Dolly at the Clark parsonage on the night preceding the battle of Lexington, Hancock, it will be remembered, in company with Samuel Adams, evacuated that village. As the two traveled toward New York and Philadelphia they were joined by other friends and delegates until the company consisted of John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Thomas Cushing, Silas Deane, Roger Sherman and Robert Treat Paine. Aunt Lydia, in the meantime, with her fair young charge, as welcome guests, was traveling toward the home of Thaddeus Burr.

From New York, under date of May 7, Hancock writes to his dear Dolly, describing his arrival at King's Bridge, where he was joined by the delegates from Massachusetts and Connecticut, a number of gentlemen from New York and a military escort, the carriage of her humble servant being "of course first in the Procession" which started for the city.

Here is a little touch of vanity from which Mr. Hancock, in common with other men who have really accomplished something in the world, was not exempt, and it may be especially excusable under the circumstance that figuratively he was beneath the tender scrutinizing gaze of Dear Dolly. To her he also described how nearer the city the party was met by another military escort, more gentlemen in carriages and on horseback, "and many Thousand of Persons on Foot, the Roads fill'd with people and the Greatest Cloud of Dust" he ever saw. Further, he tells Miss Dolly: "When I got within a mile of the City my carriage was stopt, and Persons appearing with proper Harnesses insisted upon Taking out my Horses and Dragging me into and through the City, a Circumstance I would not have had Taken place upon any consideration, not being fond of such Parade.

"I Beg'd and Intreated that they would Suspend the Design and ask'd it as a favour, and the Matter Subsided, but when I got to the Entrance of the City and the Numbers of Spectators increas'd to perhaps Seven Thousand or more, they Declar'd they would have the Horses out and would Drag me themselves thro' the City. I Repeated my Request, and I was oblig'd to apply to the Leading Gentlemen in the procession to intercede with them not to Carry their Designs into Execution, as it was very disagreeable to me. They were at last prevail'd upon and I proceeded. I was much obliged to them for their good wishes and Opinion—in short no Person could possibly be more notic'd than myself.

"After having Rode so fast and so many Miles you may well think I was much fatigu'd, but no sooner had I got into the Room of the House than we were visited by a great num-

ber of Gentlemen of the first character in the city, who Took up the Evening. About 10 o'clock I Sat down to Supper of Fried Oysters, etc., at 11 o'clock went to Capt. Sears's (the King Inn) and Lodg'd. Arose at 5 o'clock, went to the House first mention'd, Breakfasted, Dress'd and went to Meeting, where I heard a most excellent Sermon by Mr. Livingston, Return'd to the same House, a most Elegant Dinner provided. Went to Meeting, heard Dr. Rogers, a fine preacher.

"To-morrow Morning propose to Cross the Ferry. We are to have a large Guard in several Boats and a Number of the City Gentlemen will attend us over. I can't think they will Dare attack us. The Grenadier Company of the City is to Continue under Arms during our stay here, and we have a Guard of them Night and Day at our Doors. This is a sad mortification for the Tories. Things look well here.

"I Beg you will write me; do acquaint me every Circumstance Relative to that Dear Aunt of Mine; write Lengthy and Often. My best respects to Mr. & Mrs. Burr. My poor Face and Eyes are in a most shocking scituation, burnt up and much swell'd and a little painfull. I don't know how to manage with it.

"Is your Father out? As soon as you Know, do acquaint me, and send me the Letters, and I will then write him. Pray let me hear from you by every post. God Bless you my Dr Girl, and believe me most Sincerely.

"Yours Most affectionately,

"JOHN HANCOCK."

Mr. Hancock continued to advance in public esteem and public station, but he did not rely upon all this to bring his

suit to the practical conclusion of marriage. His Dolly was a beauty and had the feminine virtue of liking pretty things and knowing how to use them to the best advantage. John Hancock, with his characteristic enthusiasm, fell right into her way of thinking and doing. Still we read between the lines of this letter of June 10, while he was serving as president of the Continental Congress, that uneasiness of the lover who is not quite certain that his sweetheart is his beyond a doubt:

“MY DR. DOLLY: I am almost prevail'd on to think that my letters to my Aunt and you are not read, for I cannot obtain a reply. I have ask'd million questions & not an answer to one. I beg'd you to let me Know what things my Aunt wanted & you, and many other matters I wanted to know, but not one word in answer. I Really take it extreme unkind. Pray my Dr. use not so much Ceremony & Reservedness. Why can't you use freedom in writing?? Be not afraid of me. I want long Letters.

“I am glad the little things I sent you were agreeable. Why did you not write me of the top of the Umbrella? I am so sorry it was spoiled, but I will send you another by my Express, wch will go in a few days. How did my Aunt like her gown & do let me know if the Stockings suited her; she had better send a pattern shoe & stocking. I warrant I will suit her.

“The inclosed letter for your Father you will read and seal & forward him. You will observe I mention in it your writing your sister Katy about a few necessaries for Katy Sewall. What you think Right, let her have & Roy James. This only between you and I Do write your father. I

should be glad to hear from him, & I Beg, my Dear Dolly, you will write me often & long letters. I will forgive the past if you will mend in future. Do ask my Aunt to make me up & send me a Watch String, & do you make up another & send me. I wear them out fast. I want some little thing of your doing. Remember me to all Friends with you as if nam'd. I am call'd upon & must obey.

"I have sent you by Doer Church, in a paper Box Directed to you, the following things for your acceptance, & which I do insist you wear. If you do not, I shall think the Donor is the objection:

2 pair white silk	} stockings which I think
4 pr. white thread	
4 pr. Black Satin	} Shoes, the other
1 pr. Black Calem Co.	
1 very pretty light Hat.	
1 neat Airy Summer Cloak (I ask Doer Church.)	
2 Caps.	
1 Fann.	

"I wish these may please you. I shall be gratified if they do. Pray write me. I will attend to all your Commands.

"Adieu, my Dr. Girl, and believe me to be with great Esteem and Affection,

"Yours without Reserve,

"JOHN HANCOCK."

Ah, that there were more such worthy chaperons as Aunt Lydia to keep such worthy lovers as John Hancock close to their task of wooing such reserved and coy maidens as Dolly Quincy! Ah, that there were more Dolly Quincys and Dolly Madisons, pretty, pure and demure, simple by nature but deep in their knowledge of earnest mankind! Oh, yes, Dear Dolly, you do well to use some Ceremony and Re-

servedness and not too much Freedom in your letter-writing to the young, able, popular, wealthy president of the Continental Congress of America! Leave something for eager anticipation!

JOHN ADAMS DESCRIBES MRS. HANCOCK.

But by August the practical Hancock had so outgeneraled the charming Aaron Burr that Dolly Quincy became Mrs. Hancock, the wedding occurring at the residence of Mr. Thaddeus Burr, at Fairfield. The young couple at once went to Philadelphia to reside. At first they resided at a hotel, but later, as befitting their condition, in a large house on the corner of Arch and Fourth streets, their home being the social headquarters for many of the great men of the country. The head of the household, as president of the congress, was an accessible man of the world as well as a staunch patriot—a patriot who, in virtue of his position, unflinchingly conveyed to Washington the congressional resolutions favoring an attack and bombardment of Boston, wherein centered the property and family pride of the merchant. What manner of woman the young bride was has been well described by John Adams, the Braintree lawyer, who had been obliged to leave his wife with four small children in order to fulfill his duties as a delegate to the Philadelphia gathering. He writes to her:

“Two pair of colors belonging to the Seventh Regiment were brought here last night from Chambly and hung up in Mrs. Hancock’s chamber with great splendor and elegance. That lady sends her compliments and good wishes. Among a hundred men, almost, at this house, she lives and behaves with modesty, decency, dignity and discretion, I assure you.

Her behavior is easy and genteel. She avoids talking upon politics. In large and mixed companies she is totally silent, as a lady ought to be. But whether her eyes are so penetrating, and her attention so quick to the words, looks, gestures, sentiments, etc., of the company, as yours would be, saucy as you are this way, I won't say."

THE SECOND HELMSMAN OF THE HANCOCK MANSION.

"I have embarked on the sea of matrimony, and am now at the helm of the Hancock mansion!"

The above is an exultant exclamation of Capt. James Scott, erstwhile master of the brig "Lydia" and her many years in John Hancock's employ; the occasion, his marriage to the widow of the deceased patriot in the third year succeeding his death.

Captain Scott had been long trusted as one of Hancock's most valuable business assistants, and figured further as a dear family friend. As early as June, 1763, the faithful captain is mentioned in connection with the mastership of the ship then building for the London trade, the "Boston Packett." His name frequently appears in the correspondence lately published from John Hancock's voluminous letter-book, usually during the later years, in connection with some delicate family commission which the master of the Hancock mansion wished faithfully attended to.

In one of the letters, written in 1765, he notifies London of the surprisingly quick passage of the Lydia, which had reached port ahead of five of his ships which had sailed before her. "Our brig Lydia," adds Hancock, "is certainly a fine sailing vessel and very Lucky."

It is very probable that good Capt. Scott also considered the brig "Lydia" his mascot, as without her he would perchance never have sailed into the good graces of the widow. Among other valuable cargoes brought from London by Scott was the bell for the Brattle street church, in 1774. With the bell came also a quantity of powder ordered by Mr. Hancock—religion and powder—God and dry powder—those are what won the Revolution.

The last letters found in John Hancock's correspondence are addressed to his Dear Scott, in November, 1783, as he was about to re-enter business in order to rebuild his shattered fortune. Extracts from them are illustrative both of his own character and the close relation which existed between him and Captain Scott.

"I have been favored with your letter, accompanied with an Hamper of Porter & Two cheeses, for which I thank you very kindly. They were excellent. I should much sooner wrote you had not ill health & my public associations prevented, but, thank God, I am now much recruited. I am rebuilding my store upon the Dock which the Brittons burned to ashes when they were in possession of Boston. I shall compleat it early in the spring, when I purpose to enter the Commercial Line upon the same plan that I have pursued.

"I have for ten years past devoted myself to the concern of the Public. I have not the vanity to think that I have been of very extensive service in our late unhappy contest, but one thing I can truly Boast. I sat out upon honest Principles & strictly adhered to them to the close of the contest; and this I defy malice itself to controvert. I have lost many

thousand sterlg., but, thank God, my country is saved, and, by the smiles of Heaven, I am a free & Independent man; and now, my friend, I can pleasantly congratulate you on the return of Peace, which gives a countenance to retire from Public Life & enjoy the sweets of Calm Domestic Retirement & Pursue Business merely for my own amusement."

The writer goes on to say that he is about to send on an expert accountant to assist Capt. Scott in the collection of old bills and the general straightening out of his London accounts. The former is also, with the revival of business, to be placed in command of another ship and to take an interest in it, if he can find one to his liking. He also encloses a memorandum as to some articles which he wishes purchased for the family use. In these matters the captain is to consult Mrs. Scott and others—especially as to the Post Chariot.

"God bless you, my good friend," he concludes. "My regard to your worthy family, in which Mrs. Hancock joins me. I have a fine little boy.

"Pray, what has become of that ungrateful, ungentlemanly, base fellow of a William Bowes? There is no Balm in Gilead for him. I would not thus write of any one else, & I pray God, however, to forgive him. I wish him no ill in the other world. I shall have my Recompense for what he Rob'd me of, out of what he left here. I am

"Your real friend,

"J. H."

The memo. mentioned in the above specifies: "A very neat & light Post Chaise & Chariot. Elegantly neat, not made expensive by external Tawdry ornaments. The coachman's seat to unship and ship, with a Pole & fills, so as occasion-

ally to have the servants on the seat, or to ride Postillion. Capt. Scott will find inclosed Mr. Hancock's arms, which he would have neatly Introduced on the carriage, with the crest on the other part of the carriage & the motto subjoined. The ground paint work of the carriage to be stone yellow, that being the color all his carriages bear.

"6 Doz. very best Pewter Plates, with their proportion of proper sizes, oval or long dishes for Saturday's Salt Fish. You know how it used to be. My crest to be engraved in each Dish and Plate.

"The furniture has stood from the finishing of the large Parlor to the present moment, but is now much worn & stands in need of a Recruit. At least Mr. Hancock's son will want it. He therefore Incloses you the dimensions of the Room, windows, etc., & requests Capt. Scott will consult with Mrs. Haley as to the kind of Furniture that is most fashionable. I would not have it yellow, as my chamber over that room is furnished with that color. I think a silk & worsted furniture will be good enough. The window curtains to be made to draw up. The window cushions of the same, and twelve neat stuff back chairs to be covered with the same & a sofa of the same. I wish the room to be tolerably decent in its furniture, but not extravagantly so. I leave it with my friends to determine.

"You have also inclosed the dimensions of two Bed Chambers, for each of which I want Wilton carpets; do let them be neat. The British Officers who possessed my house totally defaced & Ruined all my carpets. I must submit. I wish to have a handsome silver tea urn, whether wrought or unwrought. I beg the favor of Mrs. Haley's advice."

Mrs. Haley was the wife of one of his London agents and "that ungrateful, ungentlemanly, base fellow of a William Bowes was a nephew of his, a hardware dealer, whom Mr. Hancock had recommended as trustworthy, and who, after abusing the friendship of his uncle, absconded largely in Mr. Hancock's debt. Capt. Scott was one of the few well acquainted with the details of this shameful abuse of trust and generosity, and to him, therefore, Mr. Hancock could express himself without reserve.

But little did John Hancock know, as he was thus laying bare his heart to his friend, and commissioning him with the refurnishing of the Hancock mansion and its chariot, that he was addressing its future helmsman, the second husband of Dolly Quincy.

HANCOCK AND MASSACHUSETTS' ADOPTION OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION.

The author of "Familiar Letters on Public Characters," who was John Hancock's neighbor and knew him well, says that the Governor was mainly instrumental in causing the federal constitution to be adopted in Massachusetts. "He had been absent some days (from the convention called for that purpose) because of illness. On the 31st of January, 1788, he resumed his place, and after remarking on the difference of opinion which prevailed in the convention, as he had seen from the papers, he had to propose that the constitution should be adopted; but that the adoption should be accompanied by certain amendments to be submitted to Congress and to the States. He expressed his belief that it would be safe to adopt the constitution under the expecta-

tion that the amendments would be ratified. The discussion then appears to have turned upon the probability of obtaining such ratification. It cannot be assumed, for certainty, that this measure of Hancock's secured the adoption; but it is highly probable.

"The convention may have been influenced by another circumstance. About this time a great meeting of mechanics was held at the Green Dragon Tavern, situated in what is now a part of Union Street and westerly of the Baptist Meeting-house. The tavern and the street were thronged. At this meeting resolutions were passed, with unanimity and acclamation, in favor of the adoption. But notwithstanding Hancock's conciliatory proposal and this expression of public feeling, the constitution was adopted by the small majority of nineteen out of three hundred and fifty-five votes.

"The adoption was celebrated in Boston by a memorable procession in which the various orders of mechanics displayed appropriate banners. It was hailed with joy throughout the States. General Washington is well known to have expressed his heartfelt satisfaction that the important State of Massachusetts had exceeded to the union."

It is very probable that Hancock, the Cavalier of American Liberty, as he has been called—that *Hancock and his crew*, such as these thousands of sturdy mechanics, were the means of tipping the scales in favor of the adoption of the constitution. All honor then to the unknown as well as the known who proved such potent factors in this important work toward cementing the Union!

JOHN HANCOCK'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATIONS.

Even the clergymen of Boston were more or less rebels, in 1774, especially as relates to doing anything suggested by Governor Gage, the representative of the British soldiery. They, in fact, refused point blank to read from their pulpits any Thanksgiving proclamation he might issue.

Thereupon the first Provincial Congress, of which John Hancock was president, took the matter in hand. This action completely reversed the outlook, and the Boston ministers and the Boston newspapers, as well as every other channel of publicity in the province of Massachusetts, put forth the following with a rush:

"MASSACHUSETTS BAY — *A proclamation for public Thanksgiving:* From a consideration of the continuance of the Gospel among us and the smiles of Divine Providence upon us, with regard to the season of the year and the general health which has been enjoyed, and in particular from consideration of the Union which so remarkably prevails, not only in this Province but throughout the continent, at this alarming crisis, it is resolved as the sense of this congress that it is highly proper that a day of public Thanksgiving should be observed. * * *

"That God may be pleased to continue to us the blessings we enjoy and remove the tokens of his displeasure by causing harmony and union to be restored between Great Britain and these colonies, that we may rejoice in the smiles of our sovereign, and in possession of those privileges which have been transmitted to us, and have the hopeful prospect that they shall be handed down entire to posterity under the Protestant succession of the illustrious house of Hanover.

“Done at Council Chamber in Cambridge this Twenty-second day of October, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-four.

“JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*”

The Third Provincial Congress issued the Thanksgiving proclamation for 1775, the usual reference to the King being superseded by GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE! John Hancock was now the official head of the national congress, and his name next appears affixed to the proclamation of 1780, as the first governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In this paper first appeared the well-known Indian figure in the State coat-of-arms, the paper being “By His Excellency, John Hancock, Esquire, Governour and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.” Its conclusion was GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES! and it was “given at the Council Chamber in Boston this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty and in the Fifth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.”

Thus another item is added to the chapter of noteworthy first things with which John Hancock is identified in that he issued the pioneer Thanksgiving proclamations in behalf of the people of Massachusetts—first, of the colony, and then of the commonwealth.

HOW HE HELPED THE TWO ADAMSES.

“Hancock lived in the mansion inherited from his uncle on Beacon street, facing the Common. There was a chariot and six horses for state occasions, much fine furniture from over the sea, elegant clothes that the Puritans called ‘gaudy

apparel,' and at the dinners the wine flowed freely, and cards, dancing and music filled many a night.

"The Puritan neighbors were shocked and held up their hands in horror to think that the son of a minister should so affront the staid and sober customs of his ancestors. Others still said, 'Why, that's what a rich man should do—spend his money, of course; Hancock is the benefactor of his kind; just see how many people he employs!'"

"The town was all agog, and Hancock was easily Boston's first citizen; but in his time of prosperity he did not forget his old friends. He sent for them to come and make merry with him; and among the first in his good offices was John Adams, the rising young lawyer of Braintree.

"John Adams had found clients scarce, and those he had, poor pay, but when he became the trusted legal adviser of John Hancock, things took a turn and prosperity came that way. The wines and cards and dinners hadn't much attraction for him, but still there were no conscientious scruples in the way. He patted John Hancock on the back, assured him that he was the people, looked after his interests loyally, and extracted goodly fees for services performed.

At the home of Adams at Braintree, Hancock had met a quiet, taciturn individual by the name of Samuel Adams. This man he had long known in a casual way, but had never really been able to make his acquaintance. He was fifteen years older than Hancock and by his quiet dignity and self-possession made quite an impression on the young man. So now that prosperity had smiled, Hancock invited him to his house; but the quiet man was an ascetic and neither played cards, drank wine, nor danced, and so declined with thanks

But not long after he requested a small loan from the merchant-prince, and asked it as though it were his right, and so he got it. His manner was in such opposition to the flatterers and those who crawled, and whined, and begged, that Hancock was pleased with the man. Samuel Adams had declined Hancock's social favors and yet, in asking for a loan, showed his friendliness."—*Little Journeys to the Homes of American Statesmen.*

THE HANCOCK MONUMENT AND MANSION.

It was not until 1896 that a suitable monument and memorial to John Hancock was erected at Granary Burying Ground by the State of Massachusetts. In the dedicatory services Governor Wolcott said: "It has long been a matter of comment and possibly of regret to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that the grave of her first governor, a man who played so large a part in the Revolutionary period, remained in the heart of the principal city of the Commonwealth unmarked by any enduring monument. This monument will be one of those spots to which the feet of pilgrims will be directed. It will be one of the memories which those who visit us from other states or countries will bear away with them from historic Boston and historic Massachusetts, and as the hurrying crowd passes by the sidewalk, I hope that it will speak eloquently for all years of his patriotic and loyal service to the Commonwealth."

The erection of the monument, late as it was, seemed in a way to make amends for the destruction of the historic old Hancock mansion, the last effort to save the house being made in 1863 in the midst of the conflict which was so much more fearful and sadder than the Revolution.

ANECDOTES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HANCOCK, ETC.

THE ENLISTMENT OF HANCOCK IN THE PATRIOT CAUSE.

It was natural that the Boston patriots should wish to enlist this ardent and influential citizen, John Hancock, in the popular cause.

The manner in which this end was attained is described in the following letter from John Adams to Mr. Tudor, author of the "Life of James Otis."

"I was one day walking in the mall, and accidentally met Samuel Adams. In taking a few turns together, we came in full view of Mr. Hancock's house.

"Mr. Adams, pointing to the stone building, said,

"This town has done a wise thing to day.'

"What?

"They have made that young man's fortune their own.'

"His prophecy was literally fulfilled, for no man's property was ever more entirely devoted to the public.

"The town had that day chosen Mr. Hancock into the legislature of the province.

"The quivering anxiety of the public under the fearful looking-for of the vengeance of king, ministry, and parliament, compelled him to a constant attendance in the House; his mind was soon engrossed by public cares, alarms, and terrors; his business was left to subalterns, his private affairs neglected, and continued to be so to the end of his life."

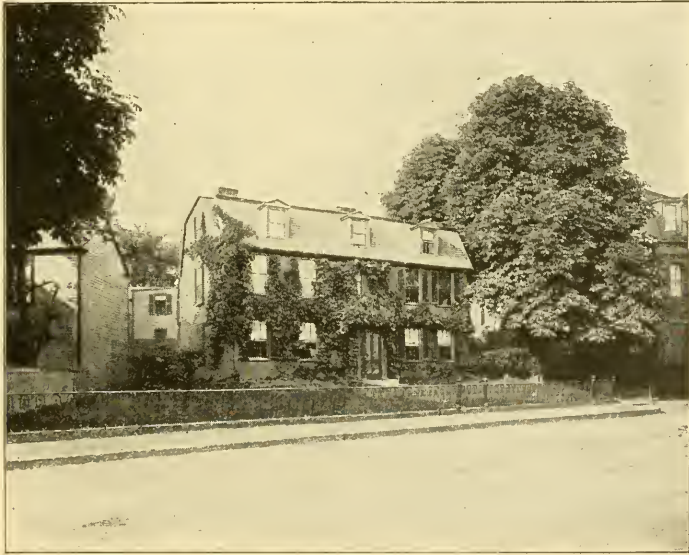
HANCOCK AND HIS CREW.

In the parliamentary debate on the Irish discountants

in 1779, Mr. Fox assailed one, Mr. Dundas, and said:

“What was the consequence of the sanguinary measures recommended in those bloody, inflammatory speeches?”

“Though Boston was to be starved, though Hancock



Cutter House, Roxbury, Mass.
A Headquarters of American Officers during the Siege of Boston.

and Adams were proscribed—yet, at the feet of these very men, the Parliament of Great Britain were obliged to kneel, to flatter, and to cringe; and as they had the cruelty at one time to denounce vengeance against those men, so they had the meanness afterwards to prostrate themselves before them, and implore their forgiveness.

“Was he who called the Americans ‘*Hancock and his crew,*’ to reprehend any set of men for inflammatory speeches?”

In the debate on the address to the king, in 1781, speaking of the American war, Mr. Fox also said:

“They (the ministers) commenced war against America after that country had offered the fairest propositions and extended her arms to receive us into the closest connection.

“They did this contrary to their own sentiments of what was right, but they were over-ruled by that high and secret authority, which they durst not disobey, and from which they derive their situations.

“They were ordered to go on with the American war or quit their places. They preferred emolument to duty, and kept their ostensible power at the expense of their country.

“To delude the parliament and the people, they then described the contest to be a mere squabble.

“It was not America with whom we had to contend, it was with ‘*Hancock and his crew,*’ a handful of men who would march triumphantly from one end of the continent to the other.”

Dr. E. L. Magoon says this was the language sounded in the House, and for similar language a learned member of it (Lord Loughborough) was exalted to the dignity of peer, and enrolled among the hereditary council of the realm.

He was thus rewarded for no other merit, that he could discover, but that of vehemently abusing our fellow sub-

jects in America, and calling their opposition, the war of "*Hancock and his crew.*"

ORATORY OF HANCOCK.

The Greeks had a saying that every man lived as he spoke; and Quintilian tells us that it used to be said of Cæsar, that he always spoke with the same mind as that with which he conducted war.

Hancock was naturally energetic, and in his happier inspirations he was very eloquent. Under his oratorical sway, his cotemporaries were sometimes greatly moved.

"Their listening powers
Were awed, and every thought in silence hung,
And wondering expectation."

HANCOCK'S ORATION ON THE BOSTON MASSACRE.

"Let this sad tale of death never be told without a tear; let not the heaving bosom cease to burn with a manly indignation at the relation of it, through the long tracts of future time; let every parent tell the shameful story to his listening children till tears of pity glisten in their eyes, or boiling passion shakes their tender frames.

"Dark and designing knaves, murderers. parricides! how dare you tread upon the hearth which has drunk the blood of slaughtered innocence, shed by your hands?

"How dare you breathe that air which wafted to the ear of heaven the groans of those who fell a sacrifice to your accursed ambition?

"But if the laboring earth does not expand her jaws—if the air you breathe is not commissioned to be the minister of death—yet, hear it, and tremble!

“The eye of heaven penetrates the secret chambers of the soul; and you, though screened from human observation, must be arraigned—must lift your hands, red with the blood of those whose death you have procured at the tremendous bar of God.”

ORATION IN BOSTON, MARCH 5, 1774.

“I have the most animating confidence, that the present noble struggle for liberty will terminate gloriously for America.

“And let us play the man for our God, and for the cities of our God; while we are using the means in our power, let us humbly commit our righteous cause to the great Lord of the universe, who loveth righteousness and hateth iniquity.

“And having secured the approbation of our hearts, by a faithful and unwearied discharge of our duty to our country, let us joyfully leave our concerns in the hands of Him who raiseth up and pulleth down the empires and kingdoms of the world.”

HANCOCK'S TALENTS.

John Adams said of Hancock: “Nor were his talents or attainments inconsiderable. They were far superior to many who have been much more celebrated. He had a great deal of political sagacity and insight into men. He was by no means a contemptible scholar or orator. Compared with Washington, Lincoln or Knox he was learned.”

HANCOCK'S WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE.

Hancock's whole heart and soul were with the strug-

gling patriots. When the best methods of driving the British from Boston was under discussion at a patriotic club, he is reported to have said:

“Burn Boston and make John Hancock a beggar, if the public good requires it.”

Later on, in the autumn of 1766, Congress gave Washington instructions to destroy Boston if it should be necessary in order to dislodge the enemy.

Mr. Hancock then wrote to that officer, saying:

“Although I am probably the largest property-owner in the city, I am anxious the thing should be done if it will benefit the cause.”

LITERARY HONORS.

John Hancock received the degree of A. M. from Yale and Princeton in 1769, and that of LL. D. from Brown in 1788, and from Harvard in 1792.

THE CLARK HOUSE.

“After making several drawings, I visited and made the sketch of ‘Clark House.’ (See page 64.) There I found a remarkably intelligent old lady, Mrs. Margaret Chandler, aged eighty-three years. She had been an occupant of the house, I believe, ever since the Revolution, and has a perfect recollection of the events of that period.

“Her version of the escape of Hancock and Adams is a little different from the published accounts. She says that on the 18th of April, 1775, some British officers, who had been informed where these patriots were, came to Lexington, and inquired of a woman whom they met,

for 'Mr. Clark's house.' She pointed to the parsonage; but in a moment, suspecting their design, she called to them and inquired if it was Clark's tavern that they were in search of.

"Uninformed whether it was a tavern or a parsonage



The Common, Lexington, as it Looks To-Day

where their intended victims were staying, and supposing the former to be the most likely place, the officers replied:

"'Yes, Clark's tavern.'

"'Oh,' she said, 'Clark's tavern is in that direction,' pointing toward East Lexington.

“As soon as they had departed, the woman hastened to inform the patriots of their danger, and they immediately arose and fled to Woburn. Dorothy Quincy, the intended wife of Hancock, who was at Mr. Clark’s, accompanied them in their flight.”—*Lossing*.

ABIJAH HARRINGTON.

“I next called upon the venerable Abijah Harrington, who was living in the village. He was a lad of fourteen at the time of the engagement. Two of his brothers were among the minute men, but escaped unhurt.

“Jonathan and Caleb Harrington, near relatives, were killed. The former was shot in front of his own house, while his wife stood at the window in an agony of alarm. (Harrington’s house is shown in cut on page 71.) She saw her husband fall, and then start up, the blood gushing from his breast. He stretched out his arms toward her, and then fell again. Upon his hands and knees he crawled toward his dwelling, and expired just as his wife reached him. Caleb Harrington was shot while running from the meeting-house.

“My informant saw almost the whole of the battle, having been sent by his mother to go near enough, and be safe, to obtain and convey to her information respecting her other sons, who were with the minute men.

“His relation of the incidents of the morning was substantially such as history has recorded.

“He dwelt upon the subject with apparent delight, for his memory of the scenes of his early years, around which cluster so much of patriotism and glory, was clear

and full. I would gladly have listened until twilight to the voice of such experience, but time was precious, and I hastened to East Lexington, to visit his cousin, Jonathan Harrington, an old man of ninety, who played



Jonathan Harrington, at 90 years of age.

the fife when the minute men were marshaled on the green upon that memorable April morning.

“He was splitting fire-wood in his yard with a vigorous hand when I rode up; and as he sat in his rocking-chair while I sketched his placid features, he appeared no older than a man of seventy.

“His brother, aged eighty-eight, came in before my sketch was finished, and I could but gaze with wonder upon these strong old men, children of one mother, who were almost grown to manhood when the first battle of our Revolution occurred.

“Frugality and temperance, co-operating with industry, a cheerful temper, and a good constitution, have lengthened their days, and made their protracted years hopeful and happy.

“The aged fifer apologized for the rough appearance of his signature, which he kindly wrote for me, and

charged the tremulous motion of his hand to the labor of his axe.

“How tenaciously we cling even to the appearance of vigor, when the whole frame is tottering at its fall! Mr. Harrington opened the ball of the Revolution with the shrill war-notes of the fife, and then retired from the arena.

“He was not a soldier in the war, nor has his life, passed in the quietude of rural pursuits, been distinguished except by the glorious acts which constitute the sum of the achievements of a good citizen.”—*Benson J. Lossing*, “*Harper's Magazine*,” 1850.

THE HANCOCK HOUSE.

In the “*Massachusetts Magazine*,” Vol. I, No. 7, for July, 1789, there is “A Description of the Seat of His Excellency, John Hancock, Esq., Boston (Illustrated by a Plate, giving a View of it from the Hay-Market).” The print is very well executed for the time, by Samuel Hill, No. 50, Cornhill—and the account of the estate is very curious and interesting. It describes the house as “situated upon an elevated ground fronting the south, and commanding a most beautiful prospect. (See page 21.) The principal building is of hewn stone, finished not altogether in the modern style, nor yet in the ancient Gothic taste. It is raised about twelve feet above the street, the ascent to which is through a neat flower garden bordered with small trees; but these do not impede the view of an elegant front, terminating in two lofty stories. The east wing forms a noble and spacious hall. The west wing

is appropriated to domestic purposes. On the west of that is the coach-house, and adjoining are the stables and other offices; the whole embracing an extent of 220 feet. Behind the mansion is a delightful garden, ascending gradually to a charming hill in the rear. This spot is handsomely laid out, embellished with glaxis, and adorned with a variety of excellent fruit trees. From the Summer House opens a capital prospect," etc.

"The respected character who now enjoys this earthly paradise, inherited it from his worthy uncle, the Hon. Thomas Hancock, Esq.; who selected the spot and completed the building, evincing a superiority of judgment and taste. In a word, if purity of air, extensive prospects, elegance and convenience united, are allowed to have charms, this seat is scarcely surpassed by any in the Union. Here the severe blasts of winter are checked," etc.

INTERIOR OF THE HANCOCK HOUSE.

"The interior of the house is quite in keeping with the promise of its exterior. The dimensions of the plan are fifty-six feet front by thirty-eight feet in depth. A nobly panelled hall, containing a broad staircase with carved and twisted balusters, divides the house in the centre, and extends completely through on both stories from front to rear.

"On the landing, somewhat more than half-way up the staircase, is a circular headed window looking into the garden, and fitted with deep-panelled shutters, and with a broad and capacious window-seat, on which the

active merchant of 1740 doubtless often sat down to cool himself in the draught, after some particularly vexatious morning's work with poor Glin's 'Plumb Trees and Hollys.' On this landing, too, stood formerly a famous eight-day clock, which has now disappeared, no one knows whither.

"On the right of the hall, as you enter, is the fine old drawing-room, seventeen by twenty-five feet, also elaborately finished in moulded panels from floor to ceiling.

"In this room the founder of the Hancock name, as a man of note, and a merchant of established consequence, must often have received the Shirleys, the Olivers, the Pownalls, and the Hutchinsons of King George's colonial court; and here, too, some years later, his stately nephew John dispensed his elegant hospitalities to that serene Virginian, Mr. Washington, the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Revolution, and to the ardent young French Marquis who accompanied him.

"The room itself, hung with portraits from the honest, if not flattering hand of Smibert, and the more courtly and elegant pencil of Copley, still seems to bear witness in its very walls to the reality of such bygone scenes.

"We enter the close front-gate from the sunny and bustling promenade of Beacon Street, pass up the worn and gray terrace of the steps, and in a moment more closes behind us the door that seems to shut us out from the whirl and turmoil and strife of the present, and, almost mysteriously, to transport us to the gray shadows and the dignified silence of the past of American history.

“Over the chimney-piece, in this room, hangs the portrait of John Hancock, by Copley—masterly in drawing, and most characteristic in its expression. It was painted apparently about ten or twelve years earlier than the larger portrait in Faneuil Hall—an excellent copy of which latter picture, but by another hand, occupies the centre of the wall at the end of the room opposite the windows.

“The chamber overhead, too, has echoed, in days long gone by, to the footstep of many an illustrious guest.

“Washington never slept here, though it is believed that he has several times been a temporary occupant of the room; but Lafayette often lodged in this apartment, while a visitor to John Hancock, during his earlier stay in America.

“Here Lord Percy—the same

‘who, when a younger son,
Fought for King George at Lexington,
A Major of Dragoons’—

made himself as comfortable as he might, while ‘cooped up in Boston and panting for an airing,’ through all the memorable siege of the town.

“It was from the windows of this chamber, on the morning of the 5th of March, 1776, that the officers on the staff of Sir William Howe first beheld, through Thomas Hancock’s old telescope, the intrenchments which had been thrown up the night before on the frozen ground of Dorchester Heights—works of such a character and location as to satisfy them that thenceforth

John Hancock
 Rob Morris Lewis Morris
 Benjamin Rush
 Benj. Franklin Samuel Chase
 John Morton James Wilson
 Wm Hooper Wm Ross
 Joseph Hewes Rich Stockton
 John Penn Jno Witherspoon
 Wm Paine Eras Hopkinson
 Thos Stone John Hart
 Geo Taylor Abra Clark
 Wm Floyd Button Guinness
 Phil. Livingston Lyman Hall
 Gaan Lewis Geo Walton

This plate shows the bold signature of John Hancock to the Declaration of Independence.

'neither Hull nor Halifax could afford them worse shelter than Boston.'

"And here, too, years after the advent of more peaceful times, the stately old Governor, racked with gout, and 'swathed in flannel from head to foot,' departed this life on the night of the 8th of October, 1793.

"As President of the Continental Congress of 1776, he left a name everywhere recognized as a household word among us; while his noble sign-manual to the document of gravest import in all our annals—that wonderful signature, so bold, defiant, and decided in its every line and curve—has become, almost of itself, his passport to the remembrance and his warrant to the admiration of posterity.—*Arthur Gilman, "Atlantic Monthly," June, 1863.*

UNIVERSITIES AND FREEDOM.

It is not often that education becomes subservient to the cause of tyranny. France, in three revolutions, poured forth her scholars to protect popular rights.

Elevated institutions of learning have almost always arrayed themselves on the side of liberty. The University of Oxford presents a melancholy exception, in connection with the era when the spirit of republicanism was extinguished for a time, in the blood of Sidney and Russell.

In direct reference to the death of these patriots, while the block was yet reeking with their blood, that institution, in solemn convocation, declared that the principles for which they died—that civil authority is derived from the people—that government is a mutual compact between the sovereign and the subject—that the latter is discharged from his obligation if the former fail to per-

form his—that birthright gives no exclusive right to govern—were “damnable doctrines, impious principles, fitted to deprave the manners and corrupt the minds of men, promote seditions, overturn states, induce murder, and lead to atheism.”

But, when, in the Colonies of America, gathered and burst the tempest which threatened to “push from its moorings the sacred ark of the common safety, and to the gallant vessel, freighted with everything dear, upon the rocks, or lay it a sheer hulk upon the ocean,” then did the graduates of our colleges appear in the front rank of heroes, powerful to “ride on the whirlwind and direct the storm.”—*Edward Everett.*

SONS OF LIBERTY.

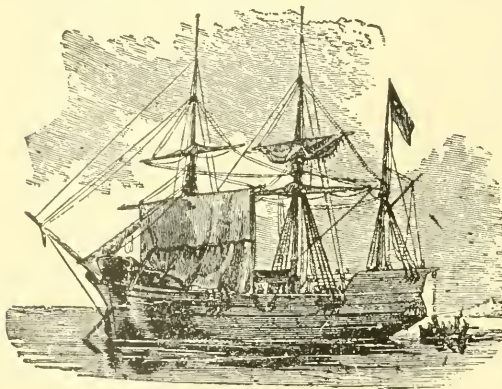
(Speech of Colonel Isaac Barré, February 6, 1775,
House of Commons.)

In the course of the debate in the British House of Commons, on the Stamp Act. February 6, 1775, Charles Townshend, after discussing the advantages which the American colonies had derived from the late war, asked the question: “And now will these American children, planted by our care, nourished up to strength and opulence by our indulgence, and protected by our arms, grudge to contribute their mite to relieve us from the heavy burden under which we lie?”

This called to his feet Colonel Isaac Barré, who had served in America with Wolfe, and who had a knowledge of the country and people which most members of Parliament lacked.

“They *planted by your care!*” exclaimed Barré.

“No; your oppressions planted them in America. They fled from your tyranny to a then uncultivated, un-hospitable country, where they exposed themselves to



The Mayflower, in which the Pilgrims fled to America to escape the tyranny of the English.

almost all the hardships to which human nature is liable; and among others, to the cruelties of the savage foe, the most subtle, and, I will take it upon me to say, the most formidable of

any people upon the face of God's earth; and yet, actuated by principles of true English liberty, they met all hardships with pleasure, compared with those they suffered in their own country from the hands of those who should have been their friends.

“They *nourished up by your indulgence!*

“They grew by your neglect of them. As soon as you began to care about them, that care was exercised in sending persons to rule them in one department and another, who were, perhaps, the deputies of deputies to some members of this house, sent to spy out their liberties, to misrepresent their actions, and to prey upon them; men whose behavior on many occasions has caused the blood of those *Sons of Liberty* to recoil within

them; men promoted to the highest seats of justice, some who, to my knowledge, were glad, by going to a foreign country, to escape being brought to the bar of justice in their own.

“They protected by your arms!

“They have nobly taken up arms in your defense; have exerted a valor amidst their constant and laborious industry, for the defense of a country whose frontier was drenched in blood, while its interior parts yielded all its little savings to your emolument. And believe me—remember I this day told you so—the same spirit of freedom which actuated that people at first will accompany them still.

“But prudence forbids me to explain myself further.

“God knows I do not at this time speak from motives of party heat; what I deliver are the genuine sentiments of my heart. However superior to me in general knowledge and experience the respectable body of this house may be, yet I claim to know more of America than most of you, having seen and been conversant in that country.

“This people, I believe, are as truly loyal as any subjects the king has; but the people are jealous of their liberties, and who will vindicate them, if ever they should be violated. But the subject is too delicate; I will say no more.”

Notes of Colonel Barre's speech were taken by Mr. Ingersoll, one of the agents for Connecticut, who sat in the Gallery. He sent home a report of it, which was published in the newspapers at New London, and soon the names of the “Sons of Liberty,” which the eloquent defender of the resisting colonists had given to them, was on every lip.—G. Bancroft, “Hist. of the U. S.”

STORY OF JOHN HANCOCK.

FOR A SCHOOL OR CLUB PROGRAMME.

Each numbered paragraph is to be given to a pupil or member to read, or to recite in a clear, distinct tone.

If the school or club is small, each person may take three or four paragraphs, but should not be required to recite them in succession.

1. The Story of John Hancock is that of American Independence, "or more accurately, the history of the final achievement of separation from Great Britain;" for a distinctive American life had been begun long before Hancock was born.

2. "America," says Dr. John Henry Barrows, "had been waiting a hundred years for her crown and scepter. Her history runs back to the English Commonwealth, to Oliver Cromwell, and Sir Harry Vane, to John Pym, John Eliot, John Hampden and John Milton."

3. "The rash hand of John Endicott struck the red cross from the banner of England and uplifted her own flag. When news came of danger to her charter, Massachusetts fortified her castle, and fasted and prayed."

4. Another John, descended from a direct and splendid ancestry of Johns, was to help carry on the grand work of these heroes who had preceded him, and borne his christian name.

5. John Hancock, the grandfather of our hero, was born in Cambridge, Mass., in 1671. He was graduated from Harvard College in 1689, and became a distinguished minister of the Congregational Church at Lexington, Mass.

6. His second son, John Hancock, the father of the subject of this sketch, was born at Lexington, Mass., in 1703. He was graduated from Harvard in 1719, and was ordained to the ministry of the Congregational Church in 1726.

7. He was a man possessed of more than ordinary talents, and was noted for diligence, prudence and piety.

8. John Hancock, our American statesman, was born in Quincy, Mass., January 12, 1737, fifteen years after the birth of Samuel Adams and five years after that of Washington.

9. He attended the Boston common schools, and proved himself a bright, industrious youth, and a diligent and obedient scholar.

10. He was also a pupil of the Boston Latin School, where he was so proficient that he was prepared to enter Harvard College at the age of thirteen years. He was graduated at that institution in 1754.

11. Thus John the grandfather was graduated at 18, John the father at 16, and the the third John Hancock at 17 years of age.

12. John Hancock's father died at Quincy in May, 1744, when the boy was barely seven years old.

13. On the death of his father John Hancock was adopted by his uncle, Thomas Hancock, who was one of the most successful merchants of his day.

14. He spent several years in the country home of his uncle, and then in the year 1760 visited England on business for this relative.

15. He was present at the funeral of George II, and also at the coronation of his successor, George III, a monarch against whom he was destined to wage with his compatriots a protracted and successful war.

16. When twenty-seven years of age he returned to his native land. His uncle, who had built the stone house on Beacon Hill, which, when erected, was the finest house in the city, suddenly died of apoplexy, Aug. 1, 1764.

17. Having no children this benefactor left most of his large fortune of a million of dollars to his nephew John, who thus became the richest man, perhaps, in Boston.

18. This uncle, Thomas Hancock, made a bequest of \$5,000 to Harvard College, for a Professorship of Hebrew and Oriental Languages. This was considered a munificent educational gift for that period.

19. John Hancock was a handsome man, as his portrait shows. He had a sonorous voice, was very attractive in appearance, graceful and engaging in manner, and very fond of social pleasures.

20. He loved to extend a lavish hospitality, and conducted his household upon an elaborate and ostentatious plan.

21. He dressed richly in the gaily colored garb of the period, and rode out in a splendid coach drawn by six handsome bays, attended by servants in showy livery.

22. Edward Everett said of him, "Hancock would have been the spoiled child of Fortune, had he not been the chosen instrument of Providence."

23. But while thus fond of show and ceremony, "he was neither giddy, arrogant nor profligate." He continued his course of regularity, industry and moderation.

24. "Great numbers of people received employment at his hands, and in all his commercial transactions, he exhibited that fair and liberal character which commonly distinguishes the extensive and affluent American merchant."

25. Samuel Adams was chiefly instrumental in winning John Hancock over to the patriot side, although the exact details are not known.

26. Mr. Hancock took a prominent part in the public measures of the times, and for several years was Selectman of the town of Boston.

27. He earnestly opposed the Stamp Act as violative of the rights of the colonies. He gave to Samuel Adams and his fellow patriots his hearty co-operation, and assisted the colonial cause with his wealth as well as by his services.

28. He was quite in contrast with his Puritanical friend, Samuel Adams, who would have abolished the theatre and dancing from Boston if it had been possible. Hancock was more of a Cavalier than Puritan, being fond of music, rich dinners, gay society and the like.

29. There was some trouble between the officers of Harvard College and himself. He was short in his accounts, but in the end made an honorable settlement.

30. In 1766, the year of the repeal of the Stamp Act, he was elected to the Legislature as a Representative from Boston, along with James Otis, Thomas Cushing and Samuel Adams, "where," says Eliot, "he blazed a whig of the first magnitude."

31. When Hancock was chosen, Adams said, "Boston has done a wise thing this day; she has made the fortune of that young man her own."

32. He held the position of Representative until the breaking out of the Revolutionary war.

33. The value of John Hancock's services to the patriots at this time cannot be overestimated.

34. He was one of the most popular and influential citizens of Boston, and his name was sure to carry weight with it in any cause he might espouse.

35. The king's officers sought to bribe him with promises of office, but utterly failed in their purpose.

36. It gave the people great confidence to see Hancock risk his great wealth and reputation in the struggle against the king and Parliament.

37. His loyalty to his country's cause was deep and true, and he was justly regarded as one of the most trustworthy leaders of the patriot party in Boston.

38. "He did not possess the far-seeing wisdom of Samuel Adams, and to the last hoped that an accommodation might be had with the mother country."

39. "He deprecated what he regarded as the rashness of Samuel Adams in forcing the controversy to a definite issue. But when the crisis came, he was as much determined as Adams himself to sustain with his life and fortune the cause of freedom."

40. He was classed by the Royalist authorities of the Province with Samuel Adams as one of the most dangerous and resolute of the patriot leaders.

41. The charge of smuggling goods into the colonies to avoid taxation, has been laid to Hancock, but even if he did smuggle goods it was only to resist the obnoxious laws, which the colonists had no part in making, and not an act of outlawry for gain.

42. Hancock was chosen captain of the Boston Cadets, a volunteer company composed of the *elite* of the young men of the city.

43. In the spring of 1768 he refused to order them on escort duty at the general election, to show his disapprobation of the methods of the crown.

44. With Samuel Adams, he openly and repeatedly denounced the Revenue Acts which increased the hatred with which the Royal officials regarded him.

45. The Commissioner of Customs, in order to annoy Mr. Hancock, accused him of having made a false entry of the cargo of his sloop, named "*Liberty*."

46. This sloop was seized June 10, 1768, and towed away under the guns of the British man of war "*Romney*."

47. The seizure caused a riot, in which the royal commissioners barely escaped with their lives.

48. This affair was made the pretext for bringing British troops into Boston.

49. Hancock, Samuel Adams and the other patriot leaders earnestly protested against their presence, and advised the people not to provide quarters for them as required by the Act of Parliament.

50. With the arrival of the troops, the trouble commenced.

51. Hancock, and Malcolm, the master of the sloop, were arrested through malice by the Commissioners of Customs on charges which could not be proved. The prosecution was accordingly ended in a miserable failure.

52. This brought on the "Boston Massacre," on March 5, 1770, in which five persons were killed by the soldiers. Among them was a gigantic Indian or mulatto, named Attucks. It ultimately led up to Lexington, Bunker Hill and the Revolution.

53. Hancock, Samuel Adams, with others, were members of the

committee to demand from Governor Hutchinson to removal of the troops.

54. Hancock desired Samuel Adams to be the spokesman on this historical occasion, when the intrepid Puritan gave his famous ultimatum, "*Both regiments or none!*"

55. Mr. Hancock gave the oration at the funeral of the slain in the Boston Massacre, "which was so glowing and fearless in its reprobation of the conduct of the soldiers, as greatly to offend the Governor."

56. He declined to serve on the Boston Committee of Correspondence, which was established by the efforts of Samuel Adams.

57. "He regarded that measure too bold and revolutionary, being averse to such extreme steps so long as a chance of settlement remained."

58. Subsequently, however, he took an active part in the proceedings of the committee, which resulted in favorable responses from the colonies.

59. In 1773 he was a prime mover in resistance to the introduction of taxed tea.

60. He was moderator of the town meeting held at Faneuil Hall on the fifth of November in that year to concert measures for such resistance.

61. When the "*Dartmouth*" arrived with its cargo on Sunday, November 28th, it was determined the next day that the tea should be sent back to England without being landed.

62. When it was ordered by the largest concourse that ever assembled in Boston, at the old South, that a watch should be set over the ship during the night, Hancock, who had taken a prominent part in the meeting, volunteered his services for the occasion.

63. He said the next day, "I should be willing to spend my fortune, and life itself, in so good a cause."

64. On the 16th of December, the day of the great "Tea Party," he cordially united with Samuel Adams in helping destroy the contents of the vessels.

65. Perhaps nothing surprised Governor Hutchinson more than this action of John Hancock. He thought that the great wealth of the rich and luxurious Bostonian would prevent him from taking such a course.

66. In 1774 Hancock was elected with Samuel Adams a member of the Provincial Congress, which was first held at Salem, and then was adjourned to Concord, and was chosen its President.

67. Towards the close of 1774 he was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, which was to meet in Philadelphia May, 1775.

68. On April 19, 1775, Hancock was at Lexington with Dorothy Quincy, his betrothed, and Samuel Adams.

69. It was to arrest Hancock and Adams that General Gage sent out the expedition to Concord on that day, which resulted in the Battle of Lexington.

70. Being warned of their danger by Paul Revere, the two patriots succeeded in making their escape to Woburn.

71. After the Battle of Lexington, and a few days before that of Bunker Hill, on June 12, 1775, Governor Gage offered pardon to the *rebels*. But he especially excepted Hancock and Adams from this amnesty, because their offences were "of too flagitious a nature to admit of any other consideration than that of condign punishment."

72. On August 28, 1775, Hancock was married to Miss Dorothy Quincy, the daughter of a prominent citizen of Boston, at Fairfield, Conn.

73. But two children were born to them, Lydia Henchman and John George Washington.

74. Hancock was a delegate from Massachusetts to the Continental Congress from 1775 till 1780, and from 1785 till 1786. He served as President of that distinguished body from May, 1775, till October, 1777.

75. He was well fitted to succeed Peyton Randolph of Virginia, its first President, by his experience as moderator of the town meetings of Boston, and as the President of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts.

76. The elegance and dignity of his manners also enabled him to fill the post assigned him with graceful ease. He was always impartial and quick of apprehension, and ever commanded the respect of Congress.

77. "When the Declaration of Independence was first published it bore only John Hancock's name as President."

78. He wrote his signature in such bold characters, that he could say with a smile, as he laid down his pen, "*There*, John Bull may read *my* name without spectacles."

79. He was commissioned Major General of the Massachusetts Militia in 1776, and commanded the contingent of that State in 1778 in the expedition against the British in Rhode Island.

80. He was elected a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention in 1780. During the same year he was elected Governor of Massachusetts, and was re-elected annually until 1785.

81. He then declined a re-election, but in 1787 was again chosen Governor, and was re-elected annually until his death.

82. In 1788 he was a member of the convention which ratified the Federal Constitution. The opposition to the Constitution was great in Massachusetts, and it seemed as though the consent of the State would be withheld.

83. Mr. Hancock was chosen President of the Convention, but did not attend its sessions until during the last week.

84. He then threw the whole weight of his influence along with Samuel Adams, in favor of its ratification, with certain amendments, which afterwards were incorporated into the Constitution.

85. By a small majority of *nineteen* out of three hundred and fifty-five votes, was the ratification secured.

86. The action of Massachusetts was hailed with great joy throughout the States. General Washington expressed his heartfelt satisfaction that the important State of Massachusetts had acceded to the Union.

87. On the 8th of October, 1793. Governor Hancock died suddenly at his residence in Boston, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. His body lay in state for several days, and his funeral was conducted with great pomp, amid the sincere regret of the people of Boston, to whom he had proved a kind and liberal friend.

88. Having no children to inherit his fortune, he bestowed a large part of his wealth upon charitable and benevolent objects.

89. Thus lived and died John Hancock, "*The Dignified Cavalier of American Liberty.*"

AN EVENING WITH JOHN HANCOCK.

1. Musical Selections.
 2. Brief Essay—The founding of Harvard University, and some of its distinguished early graduates.
 3. Sketch of Governor Hutchinson.
 4. Music—Instrumental or Vocal.
 5. Recitation—Portion of the Oration of John Hancock on the Boston Massacre.
 6. Essay—Was John Hancock a smuggler?
 7. Music.
 8. Recitation—Speech of Col. Barré.
 9. Anecdotes of John Hancock.
 10. Music.
 11. Song—"America."
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SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL STUDY.

1. *Hancock's youth and his opportunities for social advancement by espousing the cause of Great Britain.*
2. *His connection with Harvard College.*
3. *The condition of the Colonies in 1775.*
4. *The results of the American Revolution on France and other European nations.*
5. *The work done by the Continental Congress during the Revolution and the legislation advocated by Hancock.*

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW.

When and where was Hancock born? What kind of a youth was he? What were his literary abilities? Where was he educated? When did he commence his business career with his uncle? When did he go to England? What did he witness while there? What event happened soon after his return to America?

What great contrast was there between Hancock and Samuel Adams? Describe the social life of Hancock? Did his social life interfere with his business? When did Hancock begin his political career? Repeat what Adams said of him. Give an account of Hancock's trouble with Harvard College. Explain why Hancock was not a smuggler.

Who offered to bribe Hancock to the royal cause, and how? Explain why the seizing of the sloop "Liberty" was the indirect cause of the war of the Revolution? How did Hancock celebrate the repeal of the Stamp Act? What part did Hancock have in the destruction of tea in Boston Harbor? How many were engaged in the destruction of the tea? Explain the Boston Massacre.

When was Hancock chosen President of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts? Why was the Provincial Congress organized, and where did it first meet? What were its powers and duties? Who was Dorothy Quincy? Describe Lexington, Mass., in 1775?

Why did the people ask Hancock and Adams to remain in Lexington on the evening in April, 1775? Who warned Hancock of the approach of the British? When was Hancock chosen President of the Continental Congress? Repeat the remark of Mr. Harrison while conducting him to the chair. What was his answer in regard to the proposition of bombarding Boston? What did he say when affixing his signature to the Declaration of Independence? When was Hancock married? When was he a soldier? When Governor of Massachusetts, and how long? How many children did he have? Relate the tilt of etiquette between Hancock and President Washington? What were Hancock's chief faults? What were his greatest virtues? For official capacity what was he best adapted? When did he die?

CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF JOHN HANCOCK.

- 1737 Born in Quincy, Mass., Jan. 12.
- 1744 Graduated from Harvard College.
- 1745 Engaged in his uncle's service in Boston.
- 1760 Entrusted with a mission to England; witnessed the coronation of George III.
- 1761 Death of his uncle leaves him a vast fortune.
- 1765 Passage of Stamp Act, March 22. Stamp Act goes into effect, November.
- 1766 Chosen a member of the Massachusetts General Assembly. Hancock celebrates repeal of Stamp Act, May 13. Rockingham cabinet dissolved, Aug. 2.

- 1767 Bill imposing tax on glass, paper, etc., passed June 20.
 1768 Seizure of Hancock's sloop, "Liberty." Famous Circular Letter issued by Adams.
 1770 Boston Massacre, March 5. All duties except on tea repealed, April 12.
 1773 Destruction of tea in Boston Harbor, Dec. 16.
 1774 Hancock made a member of the Committee on Correspondence. In a public speech recommends a general Congress of Deputies (or Continental Congress), March 5. Chosen President of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress at Concord, Mass. Provincial Congress votes to enroll 12,000 militia, Nov. 29.
 1775 Warned by Paul Revere at Lexington, April 19. Chosen President of the Continental Congress, May 24. Married Miss Dorothy Quincy at Fairfield, Conn., Aug. 28.
 1776 Signed the Declaration of Independence, July 4.
 1777 Resigned his seat in the Continental Congress.
 1778 Major General of the Massachusetts Militia. Federal Constitution ratified by Massachusetts at Boston, Jan. 9.
 1780 Chosen First Governor of Massachusetts.
 1793 Died at Quincy, Mass., Oct. 8.

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